



AMERICA'S
STORY
AS TOLD IN
POSTAGE
STAMPS

—
EDWARD M. ALLEN



385
A42

DEC 9 1930

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BY EDWARD MONINGTON ALLEN

Headmaster, The Mohagan Lake School

Withdrawn from the collection of the
Providence Athenæum



WHITTLESEY HOUSE

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*This
book is affectionately dedicated
to the memory of my brother*

WILLIAM DAVID ALLEN
1910-1923

Foreword

EVER since 1847 the postal department of the United States government has been issuing adhesive postage stamps. These stamps are of many different designs, colors, and denominations, and their expressed purpose is to show that a fee has been collected by the government for the carrying of a letter or package to its destination.

Wherever letters go, postage stamps go also. Therefore, the little colored bits of paper which adorn the letters are designed to serve a second purpose, and this purpose is to tell the whole world about the people and the nation from whence they come. Thus the important events, some of the foremost inventions, and many of the outstanding leaders in our country's history have been commemorated by the postage-stamp issues so that the people of all nations may know something of America's struggle and achievement.

The joy of collecting and exhibiting these delicate little message carriers has been known at some time by almost every boy and girl, no matter what their age. But very often the zeal for possession may crowd out the true meaning which the postage stamp has to convey. We cannot fully enjoy the possession of a beautiful picture until we know something about what that beauty signifies and what deep emotion first called it forth in the heart of the artist. And so it should be with postage stamps, for they are miniature

symbols which recall the tremendous events which shaped our destinies and the remarkable personalities who labored that America might grow.

Throughout the pages of this book is told the history of our country as it is pictured upon the many postage stamps issued by our government. Great care has been taken to select only those stamps which may be purchased at a very small expenditure. There is only one stamp in the entire collection (see Fig. 74, page 101) which cannot be secured for less than a dollar, while a good many of them can be gleaned by the observant collector from the daily mail.

Scattered throughout the text of this history will be found frames to contain the postage stamps which will illustrate the text. Since the reproduction of a postage stamp is forbidden by law, these frames contain a brief description of the various stamps, and this description is further supplemented by a footnote, which gives data concerning the source of the illustration on the stamp, the date and significance of its issue, and the interesting facts and peculiarities about the stamp itself. In the back of the book will be found an index to the stamp material, arranged chronologically by issues. This index will tell just where the correct stamp should be placed.

It is hoped that this little book will help any boy or girl who delights in the collecting of postage stamps to a better understanding of our nation's history—or any person who is proud of our country, but has perhaps forgotten the sequence of its story, to a better appreciation of our symbolic postage stamps.

The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Jeanette and Luis Hilt who prepared the drawings of the maps especially for this book.

EDWARD M. ALLEN

MOHEGAN LAKE, N. Y.
September, 1930.

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Chapter I

THE STORY OF COLONIZATION

I

ALMOST twelve hundred years ago, at the close of the eighth century, a new and mighty stirring began among the peoples who lived in the northern parts of Europe. These men from Norway, Sweden and Denmark, or *Northmen*, as they were called by the more civilized peoples of southern Europe, were beginning their expansion and were now seeking new lands and new riches wherever they might be found.

For hundreds of years before this time all that was known of the Western World had been contained in the territory of the great Roman Empire, which completely surrounded the Mediterranean Sea and extended from the land of Persia in the East to the islands of Great Britain in the West. To these Romans all peoples outside of their great realm were *barbarians*, and a barbarian was a person whose manners and customs were different from their own, and therefore he was to be vanquished and kept out of the empire by guarded walls along the frontiers. But as the Roman Empire became larger its government became more corrupt and its armies became weaker, and gradually, very gradually, it began to give away before the barbarian hordes who pressed upon its borders. These barbarians, now that they had attained their goal, settled peacefully upon the land, became Christians and adopted other Roman customs, and at the time our story opens one of their

kings, Charles the Great, or Charlemagne, had been crowned Emperor of the Romans. They were barbarians no longer, because they had learned to "do as the Romans do."

Ever since men first came to western Europe they had sought to conquer one another. There had been movements and counter-movements of wild tribes, Roman armies, and even whole races of peoples, across the face of the land, but now from the far North, from the land of the Northmen, came a new terror. They came, not with the flourish of trumpets nor with the rumble of chariot-wheels in the light of day as the Romans had come, but silently they stole along the coast and up the narrowest of rivers at night in long slender boats. Thirty or forty powerful blond giants at the sweeping oars. A wild battle-song piercing the clear night air. A sudden frenzied attack and the slaughter of men, women and children, in hand to hand combat; these midnight marauders made no distinction, all were foes to their murdering hand. A torch was applied to the wooden buildings of the town and in the light of the blaze they plundered the wealth that the unfortunate coast town had gained by its honest toil. When morning dawned only smoking ruins and the dead and dying were to be seen. The Northmen were far away in their pirate boat upon the dancing waters of the sea, counting their spoil and planning another surprise attack further down the coast. These lusty seafaring robbers are the Vikings, with whom the story of our country must begin, for they were the first adventurers to dare the open sea.

The early Viking ships that first came foaming across the berg-strewn waters of the North Atlantic were clinker-built open boats, the biggest of them less than one hundred feet long. They were gayly colored little craft adorned with wood-carvings of queer mythological animals and propelled by long oars and huge square sails. The

shields of their crews hung in rows along the painted gunwales.

In such a ship Eric the Red set sail from Iceland, in the year 983, for a land to the west which he called Greenland, hoping that a good name would attract settlers. Two years later a certain merchant and shipmaster named Bjarni set out from Iceland to spend the winter with his father who had been a member of Eric's band of settlers. For many days Bjarni's ship was driven from its course by a violent northeast storm. Thick fogs enveloped it, huge seas menaced it, and fierce winds lashed it on through unknown seas.

At last the wind and sea abated and the sun appeared. Bjarni and his men found themselves off a low wooded shore which rose in gentle rolling hills, but there were no mountains. This was indeed a green land but it was not Greenland, for Greenland was black with rugged mountains and white with many glaciers.

Bjarni turned the prow of his little ship back in the direction from which it had come. Two days passed and again land was sighted. It was low land, level and overgrown with woods. Bjarni turned away a second time. Three more days passed and the Viking craft sped on favored by a good stiff breeze and Bjarni found himself opposite a high, bold shore, rocky and covered with snow. It proved to be an island and once again he turned away. Four days later he at last landed in Greenland close to his father's house.

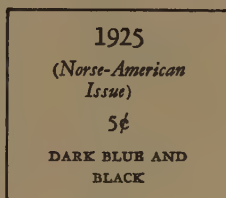


FIG. 1

FIG. 1. This postage stamp pictures the type of Viking ship that first visited western shores. This stamp was issued May 18, 1925, to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Norse settlers in New York State (Oct. 10, 1825, see Fig. 56). The craft on the stamp displays an American flag at the bow and a Norse flag at the stern. The border is decorated with conventionalized American and Norse standards.

In the year 1000, Eric's son, Lief, arrived from Norway with missionaries to convert his father's people to the teachings of Christianity. The story of Bjarni's adventure was told to Lief who determined to set out to find the land that Bjarni had described. He found the high, bold shore, rocky and covered with snow, and called it Helluland—the land of rock which stands on end. He found the low land, level and overgrown with woods, and called it Markland—the land of the deep forests. He found the low wooded shore which rose in gentle rolling hills, and here, where a river ran out of a lake into the sea, he brought his ship to rest and explored the country. It abounded in timber and wild grain; and one of the crew, who came from the vine-growing portion of Europe, discovered grapes still hanging in the autumn sunlight. Lief, thinking, no doubt, that a good name would benefit his land as much as that of his father's, called this place Vineland.

For twelve years attempts were made to colonize this new land but all were failures. The place was too remote for successful exploitation and time has effaced all trace of the Viking settlements in Vineland. We are not even sure where Vineland was located. It may have been on the shores of Nova Scotia or somewhere along the New England coast. To Lief and those who followed him the newly discovered land was not part of a great continent but only an indefinite No Man's Land beyond the mysterious seas.

2

Nearly five hundred years elapsed before another hardy adventurer dared to cross the stormy Atlantic.

Since the disintegration of the Roman Empire, the countries of Europe had been passing through what has commonly been called the Dark Ages. A Dark Age is a period in the history of man's life of which we have little



England, France, and Spain, in America

knowledge, because he left only a very few permanent records telling us about himself. To be sure, life went on very much as it does today, and the people of that age were as intensely interested in their own business, whether it was farming, shopkeeping, or trading with far-off China and India, as we are today with the many affairs that occupy our time and thought.

There was, however, one very great difference; not every boy and girl had the opportunity to attend school, for the schools of the time were either Church schools, where men were trained to be priests, or schools for the children of very wealthy noblemen. Consequently, a great ignorance of the nature of the world fell upon the mass of the people, and with ignorance came superstition. The common belief was that the earth was like a huge flat disk floating in an infinite space and that the sun swung around it every day. They believed that the deep sea swarmed with grotesque monsters which devoured whole ships, and that if one ventured too far away from the sight of land he would plunge off the earth and fall forever through space.

A belief prevailed, however, among the very learned men, that the earth was round, and that by sailing directly westward one could come to the land of China and India, and thus save the hazardous overland journey to the East which took so many months. This belief had been held by the astronomers ever since the time of the Greek philosopher Aristotle, but in calculating the circumference of the earth they made a mistake, estimating it at only three-fourths of its real magnitude. The result was to make China seem six-thousand miles nearer Europe than it really is, a truly fortunate error.

Christopher Columbus shared this belief. Although he was the son of a poor Italian wool-worker, he had become a navigator, and being an ambitious man he had learned

to read Latin, for all the important books of the day were written in that language. Most diligently of all he read the various works on geography, and sometimes he was able to correct mistakes in them because of his wide experience.

While in Portugal, about ten years before his famous voyage, Columbus learned that Toscanelli, a noted Florentine astronomer, had announced the possibility of sailing west to reach the East. He now became convinced that his ideas were possible and he knew that to accomplish such a feat would make him a wealthy and famous man.

He now began to talk about the possibility of crossing the ocean and thus reach the coast of China or the islands of the East Indies by water in a very few days. People laughed at him and mocked his bravery by calling him a boaster, and when he applied to King John II of Portugal for a ship to test his idea he was refused it, and scorned as a dreamer. It was then 1484, and Columbus left Portugal for Spain, where for seven long years he urged his plans at the court, with little prospect of success. But he was certain that he was right and he could not give up the hope that aid would come. Not only was he sure that his theory was true, he was also confident of his ability to accomplish the task, and this confidence won him many more enemies than friends.

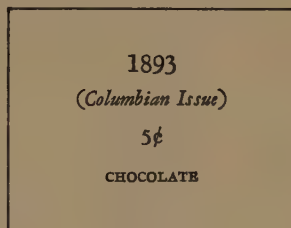


FIG. 2

FIG. 2. This postage stamp was issued at the time of the Columbian Exposition which was held at Chicago (1893) to celebrate the four-hundredth anniversary of Columbus' discovery. The Columbian Issue is very complete, ranging from stamps of one cent to five dollars. On the five-cent stamp, Columbus is pictured soliciting aid from Queen Isabella who, surrounded by her secretaries and advisors, listens attentively to his appeal. Isabella is the first woman to be pictured upon the postage stamps of the United States. The illustration is taken from an old Spanish painting.

Then, suddenly, success rewarded his persistence. Isabella and Ferdinand had been persuaded to grant his petition and the money for the expedition, 1,000,000 maravedis (\$59,000), was supplied in part by these monarchs and the rest borrowed from private individuals, the Pinzon brothers, merchants of Palos.

Early on the morning of August 3, 1492, three little ships sailed boldly forth from the seaport of Palos on the southwest coast of Spain. They were the *Santa Maria*, the *Pinta*, and the *Nina*, bound first for the Canary Islands and then for ports unknown beyond the western sea. The first

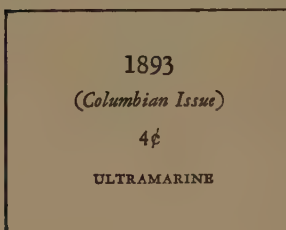


FIG. 3

was the flagship and the largest of the three, being the only one that had a deck. Upon it stood Columbus, now an admiral of Castile, with letters of introduction in his pocket to the rulers of the East and the right to govern the new lands he should discover. The crews had been gathered in Palos with great difficulty. No sailor was anxious to embark upon a ship that was destined to be swallowed up in the Sea of Darkness. To fill the crews jails were opened and the prisoners conscripted for service with Columbus. The sentences of those chosen were remitted to compensate for the dangers they were forced to risk.

After stopping at the Canaries to refit, the fleet headed westward again on September 6, and passed over the rim of the known world into the fabulous regions beyond. Days grew into weeks, and brought no sign of land. Superstition gained upon the minds of the crews and they became more sullen. Columbus kept a diary of all that

FIG. 3. This stamp portrays Columbus' fleet upon the high sea. Notice the differences in the construction and rigging of the vessels. The picture is a reproduction of a Spanish painting.

happened; but for the sailors he kept another log in which he shortened the distance sailed. Finally, on October 10, they became mutinous and threatened to throw him overboard if he would not turn back. Then the greatness of Columbus showed itself. Under no conditions would he yield: "I have come to go to the Indies," he said, "and I will keep on till I find them with the aid of our Lord." When faced with Columbus's steadfastness, the rebellious crews realized that no one else could guide them back to their homes, for even the compass had now become useless.

On the night of October 11, they saw a high sea running. The tropical air was balmy. A fragment of green rush floated by the *Santa Maria*. The men of the *Pinta* saw a reed. They fetched a small stick aboard. Apparently it had been cut with an iron instrument. A branch laden with dog roses was sighted by the men of the *Nina*. The little fleet was agog with excitement. The Admiral, standing on the castle poop, saw a flicker of light, like a small wax candle being raised. He told the lookout to keep a sharp watch ahead, and he promised a reward to the man who first sighted land.

Two hours after midnight land was seen, about six miles off. All sail was lowered and the fleet was ordered to lay to, to await the coming of daylight.

At dawn, a low green shore lay before them, and in the early hours, seventy-one days after leaving Palos, Columbus and his sailors disembarked on an island which the

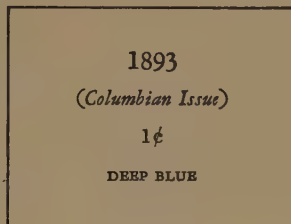


FIG. 4

FIG. 4. Columbus, standing upon the deck of the *Santa Maria*, is the central figure on this stamp. His excited companions are kneeling in gratitude or pointing toward the new land which can be distinguished in the distance. The lower right- and left-hand corners of the stamp are decorated with figures of the American natives whom Columbus called Indians.

natives called Guanahani, and which Columbus thankfully renamed San Salvador. Here upon the sparkling sand, surrounded by his captains and kneeling men, Columbus

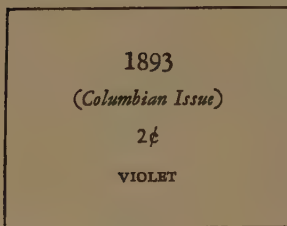


FIG. 5

gave thanks for having safely passed the perils of the sea and took possession of the land in the names of their imperial majesties, Ferdinand and Isabella, of Aragon and Castile.

Just which island of the Bahama group this was, has never been definitely ascertained. It was inhab-

ited by naked savages with whom Columbus conversed by signs. In answer to his questions they told him of a great kingdom to the south, and he sailed in that direction, discovering Cuba, which he thought was the mainland of India. Sailing along the eastern half of the northern coast of Cuba in search of the cities of the East, he came at length to Hayti, which he called La Isla Espanola. On its rocky shores his best ship, the *Santa Maria*, was dashed to pieces.

Columbus now thought of returning to Spain, and, leaving forty-four of his men to establish a Spanish post, he departed early in 1493. His passage was harassed by storms, but on March 5, he cast anchor at Palos.

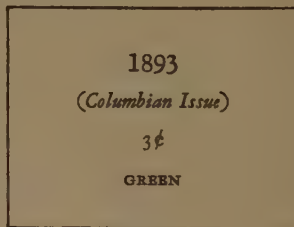


FIG. 6

He was the hero of the day. All Spain echoed with his praise, and the news of his adventure ran throughout the whole of Europe. He made his report to the king and queen

FIG. 5. This postage stamp, which depicts the landing of Columbus, is a reproduction of the famous painting by Vanderlyn which is in the rotunda of the United States Capitol building at Washington, D. C. A humorous inconsistency in the series presents Columbus, on the one-cent denomination when in sight of land, as a clean shaven man, but in this picture of his landing he is shown with a full beard.

FIG. 6. The ill-fated flagship of Columbus, the *Santa Maria* is here depicted. The illustration is taken from an old Spanish painting.

and presented the natives whom he had induced to accompany him. These people he called Indians (people from India), and the name has been kept until this day.

The king and queen were delighted with their admiral. They showered all kind of honors upon him and sent him forth again in September, 1493, with seventeen ships and thirteen hundred persons to plant a Spanish colony. A town was laid out in Hayti and called Isabella.

Two other voyages of discovery were made by Columbus in an attempt to reach the cities of India. Upon these voyages he skirted the coasts of Central and parts of

South America, believing that he had discovered a new continent to the south but never doubting that the land discovered to the northward was part of India.

As a governor of his colony Columbus was not a success. He was sensitive, arbitrary, unyielding, and severe. Low-born and a foreigner, he could not govern Spanish noblemen without friction. But as an explorer he was most successful. Here one needed courage, persistence, intelligence, and faith in a mission; Columbus had them all.

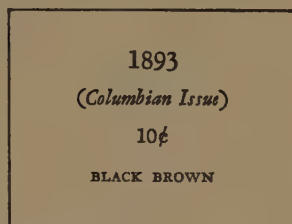


FIG. 7

3

When Columbus returned from his first voyage he reported that an abundance of gold was to be found in the new region. This report spread like wild fire over the continent and other navigators were stimulated to similar voyages of exploration. Spain, Portugal, France, and England now shared the labor of exploring the world

FIG. 7. Columbus is pictured once again at the court of the Spanish monarchs. Ferdinand and Isabella are seated upon the throne while in the foreground, to the right and left, are the Indians who have accompanied the daring navigator on the return from his first voyage to America.

Columbus had discovered. It seemed now that a great barrier of land was stopping the pathway to India and their mariners turned northward and southward in search of a passage through to the Orient. John Cabot, a Venetian in the service of England, appears to have reached the coast of North America in 1497, and a Portuguese explorer by the name of Laborador seems to have made a voyage of discovery before that time. Between 1498 and 1502 there were at least eight voyages to the coast of South America. They entered every gulf and bay of importance and by 1522 the map of the coast had begun to assume a somewhat familiar aspect. Having explored the coast, they took up the task of exploring the interior, led on by a great hunger for gold and precious stones.

From the first colony established in Hayti (1494) other colonies had grown, and great plantations had been marked off on the various islands of the West Indies by Spanish noblemen who were willing to attempt adventures on the

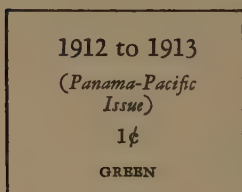


FIG. 8

unexplored mainland. Such a man was Vasco Nunez de Balboa. He had been a planter in Santo Domingo and had become bankrupt. Secretly he stole away from his home to escape his creditors, who would have thrown him into jail, and joined an expedition to plant a colony near the Isthmus of Panama.

Balboa was small, ugly and very poor, but he was a born commander, and by his resolution and scheming he gradually made himself the leader of the enterprise. But

FIG. 8. Balboa is here shown in the armor of a Spanish nobleman of the sixteenth century. The tropical coast of Central America is suggested by palm trees, while the border of the stamp displays on the right, a branch of rye, and on the left, a branch of wheat. The Panama-Pacific Issue was made at the time of the formal opening of the Panama Canal in 1912, when the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans were connected. The one-cent denomination was issued to commemorate the four-hundredth anniversary of Balboa's discovery of the Pacific Ocean.

once they reached Panama the purpose of the colonists changed. Someone found gold. Away went all thought of forming a permanent settlement. Digging in the hills, or forcing the natives to dig for them, became the order of the day.

Once, while some of the Spaniards were fighting over a small find of the precious gold, an Indian who watched the quarrel remarked contemptuously that he could show them a great water over which came quantities of the yellow metal. Balboa heard the words and remembered them, and set out with about two hundred men to find the sea. His way was fraught with the perils of malarial swamps and he had to cut his path through the dense and tangled foliage of almost impenetrable tropical jungles. The march of forty-five miles required eighteen days of discouraging labor. Finally he neared the sea; its eternal roaring could be discerned above the lesser noises of the forest. Halting his men he climbed the last impending ridge so that he alone might be the first to see the object of his search.

There before him, stretching out to the west, lay a great, open, and calm sea upon which no European eye had gazed before and across which no white man's ship had ever sailed. Now Balboa knew that there was still another mighty ocean to be crossed before India could be reached. Now he knew that a great new world lay to the north and to the south of him. Then, calling his men to witness the scene, this bankrupt adventurer, heartless betrayer of benefactors, and relentless victor over his personal enemies, knelt and thanked "God and all the Heavenly Host who had reserved the prize of so great a thing unto me, being a man but of small wit and knowledge, of little experience, and lowly parentage."

Thus it was that Balboa discovered the Pacific Ocean in 1513.

4

But one more discovery was now needed to make the New World stand in bold relief before the eyes of old Europe—and that was made by Ferdinand Magellan in 1519 to 1522.

Magellan was a Portuguese navigator who sailed under the Spanish flag. In September, 1519, he left Spain with five old vessels manned by unwilling and untrustworthy crews and captains. He encountered long calms and terrific storms, and his first winter was spent on the eastern coast of South America. Here intense cold and disease wrought great hardships. His crews mutinied in an attempt to force him to return to Europe, but Magellan, by his individual courage, stilled their revolt and continued his hazardous journey.

On October 21, 1520, as the Antarctic spring began, he entered the straits which now bear his name—a channel three hundred and seventy miles long and from two and a half to seventy miles wide, between South America and Tierra del Fuego (the Land of Fire). For five weeks they pushed their way along the channel. Its last half passes between high rocky banks on each side. The little fleet passed through cautiously and fearfully, not knowing what mysterious terror lay ahead of them. At length, the cliffs receded and the straits opened to a broad ocean which Magellan called the "Pacific Ocean" (the Quiet Sea).

Boldly he struck out across the ocean toward the northwest and, after much suffering from disease, starvation, loss of men and ships, came to the islands of the East and

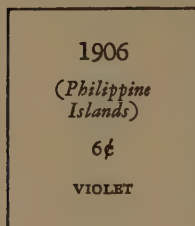


FIG. 9

FIG. 9. This postage stamp, which pictures Ferdinand Magellan, was issued by the United States government in 1906 for use in her new possession, the Philippine Islands (see p. 137). It was upon one of these islands that Magellan lost his life.

realized that at last the Orient had been reached and that the rich cities of the East were soon to be found. The dream of Columbus had been realized by Magellan. The East had been reached by sailing to the west.

Magellan, however, did not live to enjoy his triumph. He was killed in a battle with the natives on the island of Matau, one of the Philippines. In 1522, the *Victoria*—the only survivor of his fleet to escape the perils of the sea—reached the port in Spain from which it had sailed three years before, having circumnavigated the globe. The earth had been proved to be round; the Indies had at last been reached by sailing westward, and two great continents, a new world, lay revealed and open to European exploitation.

5

Throughout the sixteenth century, many adventurers had attempted to settle along the coast of the New World, but every such attempt had been brought to an end by the difficulties encountered by the pioneers—disease, starvation, and struggles with the natives of the forest. It was then realized that united efforts must be employed if a colony was to become permanent. A colony, so it came to be thought, was like a young child whose parents must take care of it until it is able to provide for itself—then it would grow strong and in time gladly repay its motherland for her help and guidance.

In England, two important companies were formed for the purpose of planting permanent colonies in North America. These companies were known as the London Company and the Plymouth Company. Each received a charter from the king, which gave them the right to govern the territories settled, but also made them responsible to him for their actions.

On December 20, 1606, the London Company sent out three ships, upon which sailed one hundred and twenty men, to settle the new country that Sir Walter Raleigh had named "Virginia." The majority of them were English gentlemen and adventurers, who hoped to find great fortunes of gold and precious stones and who thought very little of farming or any of the harder ways of earning a living. The captain of the expedition carried in his pocket a secret packet, which was not to be opened until twenty-four hours after he had made a landing in America.

Four months were spent in making the voyage; first to the Canaries, then to the West Indies, and then north-westward toward Chesapeake Bay. Finally, they sighted the Virginia capes and sailed into a river which they named the "James" in honor of their king. At last the

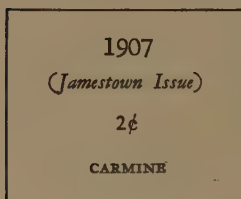


FIG. 10

sealed packet was opened. It contained the names of the seven men who were to make up the governing council of the new colony. One of the names was that of Captain John Smith.

The colonists now divided into two parts; one explored the river and bay and the other proceeded to lay out a town. A fort, a church, and a storehouse were constructed. In the rear of these was laid out a little street along which huts were built. The town was named Jamestown.

When the hot August days came, the settlers began to sicken from disease and starvation. By the following

FIG. 10. This stamp and the two following were issued to commemorate the three-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. The two-cent denomination shows the colonists landing upon the Virginia shore and taking possession of the land in the name of King James. Notice the English flag carried by the leader. In the background can be seen the fleet anchored in the James River. The right border of the stamp pictures a stalk of Indian maize which allegorically represents the endurance of the colony, and on the left the tobacco plant which became their source of wealth.

January their number was reduced to forty. Now the starving men turned against their governor, who could think of no better means of overcoming the difficulties than conserve the small store of food until help arrived from England. Captain John Smith now became the most active man in the colony. He went out to trade with the Indians, and besides securing food won their respect, so that even the most antagonistic tribes in the vicinity became friendly. In 1608, he became president of the colony, and when all the other councilors died he

would not appoint successors, but ruled alone. The people accepted him, and, in the spring of 1609, he got forty acres of land under cultivation, whereas only four acres had been planted the year before. Another of his services was to cause a well to be dug to supply pure water to the

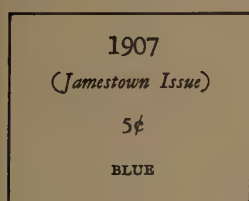


FIG. 12

settlers. For two years they had been drinking the murky water of the brackish river. Better homes were built, and when Captain Smith sailed back to England in the autumn of 1609 the population of Jamestown had reached about five hundred.

From 1608 until 1622 there was peace between the Jamestown folks and their Indian neighbors, due to the friendship established by John Smith and to the good will

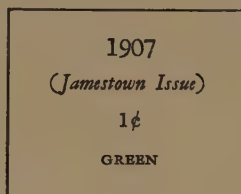


FIG. 11

FIG. 11. Captain John Smith, the prime mover of the colony, is here pictured in the armor of an Elizabethan warrior. The scroll beneath his portrait bears the dates of his birth (1580) and death (1631). In the upper right- and left-hand corners are insets of an Indian "brave" and "squaw," natives whose friendship made the founding of the colony possible.

FIG. 12. Pocahontas, the daughter of the great chief Powhatan, is pictured in her court dress in which she was received by the English monarchs as the wife of John Rolfe. Here for the first time an Indian is made the center of interest on a United States postage stamp. The dates given upon the scroll beneath her portrait are the years of her birth (1585) and her death (1617).

of Powhatan, the great chief of a confederacy which included at least thirty-four tribes. His good will was much influenced by his daughter Pocahontas, who made many visits to Jamestown and became very much interested in the civilization of the white man.

Many years later, Captain John Smith wrote an account of his adventures in Virginia, and one of the stories that he told was of how Pocahontas bravely saved his life by offering her own in exchange. It is very true that this noble Indian girl performed many valuable services for the colonists, but when she visited England later as the wife of John Rolfe, one of the colonists, she admitted that she had heard much of Captain John Smith but had never before made his acquaintance. It is somehow easier to believe that John Smith's imagination ran away with him in his enthusiasm for the success of the colony, than that Pocahontas deliberately denied the truth.

6

The first attempts to colonize the shores of our country, as we have seen, were made by gentlemen adventurers who thought more of searching for wealth in the hills, to take back to Europe with them, than of peacefully settling down and building up a permanent colony by hard and careful work.

But, in the early part of the seventeenth century, came people who were glad to leave the cares and worries of the Old World behind. Their object was not the riches of this world, nor did they come to conquer and subdue the natives of the new country. Instead, they sought heavenly riches in this new free land and they hoped to make friends with and to convert the Indian to the religious faith which they had bought so dearly. They were the people who considered themselves "persecuted

for righteousness sake'' and who sought only a place where they might worship God as they chose, unmolested.

Ever since Martin Luther, the German reform leader, had defied the authority of the pope in 1520, Europe had been torn by religious controversies and wars. Reform, or Protestant leaders, appeared in various countries to exhort the people and turn them from the practices of the Roman Catholic Church. In France, the great Protestant leader was John Calvin (1509 to 1564), who organized the Presbyterian Church and formulated its beliefs. His followers came to be known as the *Huguenots*, and for scores of years they were persecuted by the Catholic rulers of that country.

The first Huguenot settlement was made in America as early as 1562, a time when the hardy seamen were still searching for a passage through the land to India, in what is now the state of Florida. The Huguenot leader, Coligny, sent out Ribaut, a bold mariner, to explore the coast and to select a place for settlement. Ribaut was delighted with the country, and left thirty men at Port Royal harbor in a rude palisade called "Charlefort" in honor of Charles IX. Idleness and want soon brought them to mutiny, and they escaped to Europe in a boat of their own construction. Starving and reduced to cannibalism, they at last sighted the French shore, only to be made captives by an English vessel which happened to be near. The choice of their site, near the present town of Mayport,

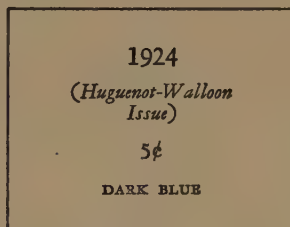


FIG. 13

FIG. 13. This stamp and the two following were issued on May 1, 1924, to commemorate the three-hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Huguenots and Walloons in America. The monument reproduced on the five-cent stamp was erected at Mayport, Fla., by the Daughters of the American Revolution and dedicated on May 1, 1924, to commemorate the first Huguenot settlement in America in 1562.

was unwise, for the Spaniards had already secured a firm foothold upon the peninsula and their jealousy would not tolerate a French neighbor.

In 1621, the government of Holland established the Dutch West India Company. Its purpose was to prey upon Spanish commerce, conquer Brazil, carry slaves to the American plantations, and establish settlements in the New World. In America their activities centered about the river that had been discovered by Henry Hudson (1609), because it emptied into a good harbor and led far into the interior of the country. A trading post was established two years later on Manhattan Island and the company sought to send more immigrants to settle the territory.

Many of the Huguenots had fled from France to Holland. They were a thrifty and industrious people and the Dutch West India Company tried to induce them to settle in America. In 1624, about thirty families of Huguenots from northeastern France and Walloons from the southwestern part of Belgium, sailed on the little ship *New Netherlands*. They had wearied of religious persecution and sought peace and freedom in that part of the new land that was claimed by Holland.

The vessel was crowded, and the voyage was long, but finally the hazards of the sea were passed and they sailed triumphantly into the Hudson River Bay. A brief stop was made at the tiny settlement of New Amsterdam, on the island that Governor Peter Minuit had purchased from the Indians for about twenty-four dollars, and then most of them continued to sail up the broad river.

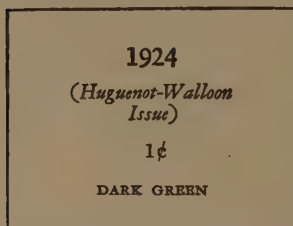


FIG. 14

FIG. 14. The ship *New Netherlands* which carried the Huguenot settlers to Fort Orange in 1624.

Following its course, they sailed onward, past the majestic Palisades, past beautiful hills and rich plains, until at last they were halted by shallows at what is now Albany. It was the very place at which Henry Hudson had turned back. Here they stopped and built an outpost settlement which they named Fort Orange—a settlement which was to become the center of the fur-trading industry, and later on the capital of a great State.

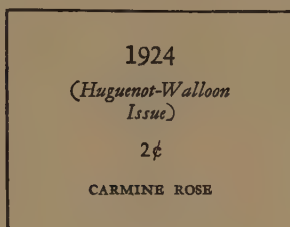


FIG. 15

Throughout the following century, the French Huguenots continued to come, peopling the land from Maine to the Carolinas. Sturdy, energetic, and patient people, they lent their courage to the cultivation of American civilization and left a line of descendants whom we remember by such names as Paul Revere, John Jay, and Peter Faneuil.

7

King Henry VIII of England had broken away from the Roman Catholic Church and established himself as the head of a National Church, which in time came to be called the Anglican Church. There were, however, many people in England who could no more agree with the teachings of the Anglican clergymen than they could with those of the Roman Catholic priests. Two groups of these dissenters demand our special interest. They are the Separatists and the Puritans.

The Puritans were those who wished to remain in the established church, but maintained that it should be

FIG. 15. The landing in the early spring upon the barren shores of the site which is now the city of Albany, N. Y., is here depicted. In the background may be seen the *New Netherlands* riding at anchor upon the Hudson River.

"purified." Like the French Huguenots, they were Calvinistic in their doctrines. They freely criticised the lax standards of their time; prevailing immoralities and extravagances were bitterly attacked, and many innocent and beneficial enjoyments were condemned as sinful.

Unlike the majority of the Puritans, the Separatists were less aggressive and extremely tolerant even in religious matters. They did feel, however, that the Anglican Church was beyond reforming and decided to "separate" themselves from its control. In 1606, they formed a church organization of their own under the direction of their leader and pastor, John Robinson.

The congregation encountered persecution immediately. Fleeing one by one, the members at length arrived in Amsterdam, Holland, and then went to the industrial city of Leyden where they found employment and set up their church. Ten years of hard work in this foreign land did not improve their industrial condition. The Dutch craft guilds excluded them from the best paying trades; their children were becoming Dutch in speech and ideas, and they longed for a home in an English land.

On February 2, 1620, a patent was issued from the London Company permitting them to settle within the boundaries of Virginia and, after much negotiation, they came to terms with certain merchants who were willing to invest money in their enterprise. A loose stock company was formed in which the Pilgrims, as we shall now call them, became shareholders with the capitalists, and as a guarantee to the merchants they bound themselves to work for a period of seven years.

Having accepted the harsh conditions of their bondage, a little band of Pilgrims set sail in the *Speedwell* from Delfthaven in the summer of 1620. At Southampton they were joined by another party in a second hired ship, the *Mayflower*, and the two vessels put out to sea, headed, as

they thought, for Virginia. The first ship soon proved to be unfit for the journey and they were forced to return to port. Here some of the discontented emigrants deserted, while the others crowded into the *Mayflower*. Finally, on September 6, all was ready and the ship put forth once again with one hundred and two "pilgrims and strangers upon earth" from forty-one Separatist families.

For sixty-three days and nights they tossed upon the Atlantic. Violent storms harassed their path and shook every timber of their little bark. So fierce became the tempest that for days they were driven before it until the captain lost his reckonings completely and sat sullenly in the round-house, while the voyagers suffered in their crowded quarters.

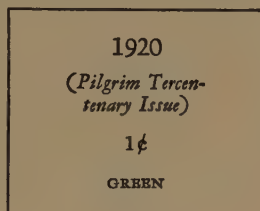


FIG. 16

On November 6, they found themselves in sight of land far to the north, out of the limits of the Virginia territory where they had permission to settle. Passing Cape Cod, bearing to the southward, they encountered shoals and drew back, coming to anchor in the harbor of what is now Provincetown. The captain refused to take the ship any further south, and after five weeks of exploring they brought the ship to Plymouth, a place marked and named on Captain John Smith's map as having a deep-water harbor.

Plymouth, outside the bounds of the London Company, could not profit by the original patent. Without a frame

FIG. 16. Here is to be seen the famous *Mayflower* upon the high sea, bearing its cargo of "wanderers" toward their future home in America. This and the two following stamps were issued in 1920 to commemorate the three-hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. The border design shows the English *Mayflower*, or hawthorn blossom on the left side, and the American *Mayflower*, or "trailing arbutus" on the right side. The design of the series is unique in that there is no indication of what the pieces of paper are to be used for, nor who issued them; they might be souvenir seals or advertising labels. The letters "U.S." are not used, nor the word "postage."

of government from the crown they were thrown upon their own initiative. The result was, that before leaving the *Mayflower* the forty-one Pilgrim "fathers" met and bound themselves into a body politic, agreeing to enact and abide by laws and ordinances for the general good. This was the "Mayflower Compact," and in the absence of a charter it was the basis of civil government in Plymouth until that colony was united with Massachusetts in 1691.

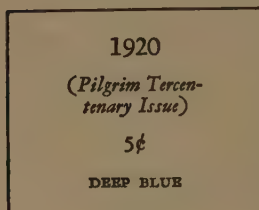


FIG. 17

On December 21, they made their formal landing at Plymouth harbor. The place had a stream of fresh water for drinking, and some cleared fields where Indians had once grown corn. A common storehouse was soon built and temporary huts were constructed to protect the weary passengers. Soon the gray New England winter closed down upon them. Hunger, cold, and illness played their relentless parts, and by the arrival of spring hardly one-fifth of the colonists were alive. But the spirit of the survivors did not lag. They went to work, planting and building, and within a few years were able to buy off the merchants to whom they were bonded and began to build up a prosperous and independent commonwealth.

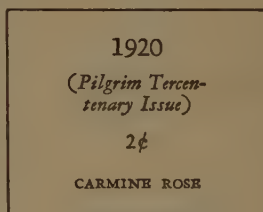


FIG. 18

The Puritans in England were no more fortunate than the Separatists in escaping persecution. King James I had sworn to harry them from the land, and his successor,

FIG. 17. The signing of the "Mayflower Compact" is here pictured. Prayerfully and with solemn reflection the Pilgrims formed their system of government and elected their civil officers before leaving the *Mayflower*. The picture is taken from an American etching.

FIG. 18. The most famous of colonist "landings" is here pictured in the landing of the Pilgrims. The event has been often celebrated in poetry, picture, and song.

Charles I, took up the task of destroying their form of worship. In 1629, matters came to a head. Harsh laws were enacted and harsher decrees promulgated. As persecution grew apace, thousands of Puritans turned to America as the only avenue of escape. On June 12, 1630, ten years after the Pilgrims had landed, 900 Puritan settlers reached New England in eleven vessels and selected a site at the mouth of the Charles River which they called Boston. The place was too small for such a large number of settlers, and the colonists dividing into bands settled seven other towns in the vicinity. Other emigrants continued to come and by 1643 the total population of the colony was more than 16,000.

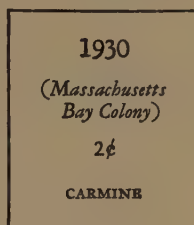


FIG. 19

8

It has been estimated that at the time of its discovery, North America was peopled with about half a million Indians, the great majority being in what is now the United States. When we consider that the population of but one of our large cities (New York City) is more than twelve times this whole number, it would hardly seem possible that "every bush and tree concealed a naked savage" as an early emigrant would have us believe. In fact, the Indian inhabitants of our country are almost as numerous today as they were four hundred years ago.

FIG. 19. This postage stamp was issued on Apr. 8, 1930, to commemorate the three-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In the center of the stamp is the colonial seal with the figure of an Indian holding in his left hand a bow and in his right an arrow. On either side of the figure is a small pine tree. Across the top in white Roman letters is the wording "United States Postage." Below this on either side of a semicircular panel is an ornate triangle. The panel contains the title "Massachusetts Bay Colony."

Where the redmen came from is a question that still remains unsettled. Perhaps they are the descendants of an original American race, or perhaps they migrated several thousands of years ago from the lands of eastern Asia, crossing from the north through the Aleutian Islands or coming direct across the Pacific Ocean, step by step from island to island. All is speculation, however, and only further investigation may give more satisfactory knowledge.

Although there is unity of general characteristics, there are striking differences among the Indians. They range from the Eskimos of the frozen North, who are herdsmen and fishermen living in tents of skin, to the Aztecs of tropical Mexico, whose cities, temples, and accumulated wealth so impressed the early explorers.

The natives of the northern Atlantic Coast with whom the colonists came in touch, were nomads of the forest who lived by hunting and rude agriculture. They lived in tribes, and most tribes were divided into clans. A clan would constitute kinship and would be known by the name of its totem, some animal or plant to which the family stood in special relationship, as "Fox," "Bear," or "Rattlesnake."

The clan had two kinds of leaders, a sachem and a chief. The sachem was the ruler in times of peace and the chief was the leader in times of war. Both officers were elected by the members of the clan, and although there was only one sachem there might be several chiefs, depending upon the size of the clan.

The most distinguished group of North American Indians was the Six Nations of the Iroquoian family, five of whom lived in western New York and the other in North Carolina. Early in the fifteenth century they established a confederacy and proved themselves the scourge of their neighbors. They were friends of the white

men in New York and were helpful allies in driving the French out of Canada.

In warfare, the Indian was indifferent to his own suffering and also to that of his enemies; he was brave in battle, but he stalked his enemies as he hunted wild game, and murdered them by stealth if he could. In our day of night air attacks upon defenseless cities, poison gases, and submarine warfare, we may pause to wonder whether the Indian method of warfare was the more barbaric.

In friendship he was true, once the white man had earned his respect. Were it not for his friendship Jamestown would have failed; Fort Orange would have failed; Plymouth would have failed. He taught the white man the many secret ways of the forest life; he showed him how to grow corn and how to fertilize his fields with fish from the sea. His lore of medicinal herbs became the white man's inheritance, and the use of tobacco was first learned from him.

The white settler's contest for territory with the Indian divides itself into three well-marked stages. The first colonies soon came into conflict with some neighboring small tribes who feared the loss of their land. The victory of the whites in these earliest struggles resulted in

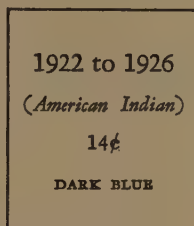


FIG. 20

FIG. 20. This postage stamp was issued May 1, 1923. The portrait is that of "Hollowhorn Bear" an Indian chief of the Brule Sioux, whose portrait is here used as typical of the Indian tribes of North America. He is supposed to have been born in Nebraska, and at the age of sixteen accompanied a band led by his father against the Pawnees on the present site of Genoa, Neb. After joining the Brules in 1868, he participated in a raid on the Pacific labor camps. Later, he joined the Crow agency at Rosebud, S.D., as a subcaptain of police. Five years later he was appointed second-lieutenant. On account of his prowess as an orator, Hollowhorn Bear was chosen by the Indians as their representative when General Crook was sent with a command to Rosebud, in 1889, to make an agreement with the redmen. In March, 1905, he visited Washington, D.C., and took part in President Roosevelt's inaugural parade. The photograph was taken by a Washington photographer during this visit. He died in 1913.

a truce; but as their settlements extended inland a larger number of Indians became alarmed and a sterner struggle ensued. Another defeat convinced the savages of their weakness, and there followed another period of peace until the Indians found external allies. On the north it was the French who helped them, and on the south outside aid came from Spain. But the whites were now so well planted that the result was beyond question. From that time Indian wars were frontier struggles in which the natives vainly endeavored to preserve their ever-decreasing land and wild-game rights. War swept over the land from ocean to ocean, extinguishing some tribes, greatly depleting others, and forcibly converting the remainder to civilized standards or shutting them up on government reservations.

9

France based her claim in North America upon the discoveries of Jacques Cartier who, in 1534, 1535, and 1541, had explored the region of the St. Lawrence River as far west as the site of Montreal. It was not, however, until 1608 that the French king became interested in the possibilities of his western claim and sent a company of colonists, under the leadership of Samuel de Champlain, to establish a "New France" in the New World. In that year Quebec was founded and became the starting point of a notable series of westward ventures in exploration, trade, and missions.

New France grew slowly. Thirty years after its establishment the population numbered less than 2,500 inhabitants, and by the year 1683 this number had increased to only 10,000, but the fur trade had expanded, the agricultural area was increased, and New France now reached across the Great Lakes to establish French sovereignty in the Mississippi Valley.

For years, French missionaries and traders had been moving toward the discovery of the upper Mississippi. To be sure, the southern part of the river had been discovered long before (1542) by the Spanish adventurer De Sota, who followed it north as far as Tennessee and who was finally buried in its depths, but it now remained for two French explorers, the trader Joliet and the Jesuit missionary Marquette, to discover and explore its northern part and to determine that this waterway drained the central valley of the continent. The route which they took lay up the northwest side of Lake Michigan, up Green Bay and the Fox River, across Lake Winnebago, over the portage to the Wisconsin River, and down the latter into the Mississippi. On May 17, 1673, they entered upon the "Father of Waters" as the Indians called the great river, and continued southward for two months until they came to the mouth of the Arkansas. They desired to reach the salt sea, but decided to turn back at this point lest they fall into the hands of the Spaniards and the knowledge of their discovery perish with them.

What they failed to do was achieved in 1682 by the daring explorer, Ferdinand La Salle, who reached the Gulf of Mexico and took possession of the great valley in the name of his French sovereign, Louis XIV.

Exploration was followed by occupation. Marquette established a mission among the Illinois Indians and for the next hundred years Christianity was brought to the Indians and the incoming French settlers in the upper Mississippi valley by a long series of missionaries, chiefly

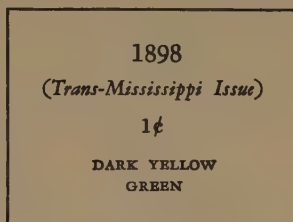


FIG. 21

FIG. 21. This stamp reproduces a painting by Lamprecht, now in possession of the Marquette College of Milwaukee, Wis., representing Father Marquette in a boat on the upper Mississippi River preaching to the Indians.

of the Jesuit order. With the missionaries came the fur traders, and gradually a long system of French forts and trading posts began to appear on the banks of the rivers where before there had been but wilds and wilderness.

Thus we have seen some of the major factors which promoted the exploration and colonization of the new Western World: (1) The demand for an all-water route to the wealth of the Orient; (2) the desire on the part of adventurers to exploit the gold, silver, and other natural products of America; (3) the hope of the Pilgrims, Puritans, and Huguenots to find a land where they might settle in peace and escape the religious persecutions of the Old World, and (4) the urge of the missionaries to educate and Christianize the Indians who were found upon the new continent.



The United States at the Close of the Revolution

Chapter II

THE STORY OF COLONIAL INDEPENDENCE

I

BEFORE the opening of the eighteenth century, three powerful European nations had laid claim to territory upon the continent of North America, and each defiantly asserted its right to hold land claimed by the other two. On the Atlantic Coast were the English, firmly settled from Maine to Georgia, claiming the territory westward to the Pacific Ocean. To the north were the French, holding the land from Laborador west to the Great Lakes and then southward to the Gulf of Mexico, while in the south were the Spaniards claiming the territory of the Floridas and the whole of Mexico.

The great struggle for colonial supremacy came between the French and the English in a series of four intercolonial wars, commonly known as King William's War (1690 to 1697), Queen Anne's War (1701 to 1713), King George's War (1745 to 1748), and the French and Indian War (1754 to 1763). With the peace which followed each of these colonial wars, France lost more and more of her American territory to England, and finally, in 1763, she made her exit from North America; she had lost her day as a colonizing power.

By the Treaty of Paris (1763) which ended this long period of colonial warfare, the Floridas, Canada, and Louisiana as far west as the Mississippi River came into the possession of England. During this period the thirteen

English seaboard colonies had grown in population to almost two million people and flourishing cities and towns had developed around the excellent harbor sites of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston.

In England, the statesmen who were anxious to build up the power, and therefore the wealth, of their country, looked upon these American colonies with three main ideas as to their value.

1. Their American colonies should be made to furnish the motherland with such raw products as could not be raised at home. To encourage this, the British Parliament was willing to grant colonial planters generous sums of money as an incentive to continue in the industries which they thought beneficial to themselves, and thus such products as tobacco, indigo, tar, hemp, and masts were imported from America rather than from some other foreign nation.

2. The British statesmen also felt that their colonies should not create industries which would compete with Britain's nor should they enrich her commercial rivals by trading with them. England was fast becoming a manufacturing nation and to have her colonies engage in the same manufacturing would mean the loss of a market in which to sell her finished goods. Therefore, Parliament had forbid such manufacturing in the colonies. Other restrictions were placed upon commerce. All import and export trade must be carried on with ships owned and sailed by British subjects; many colonial articles destined for a European port must be sent first to England and, after duties were paid, re-shipped to their destination; all goods imported into the colonies from Europe must come by way of England and must pay duties there. Thus the prices paid by the colonists for manufactured goods were made greater by the taxes and the delays, but good colonists were supposed to be glad to pay the extra duties

and rejoice in the fact that English ships and English sailors brought their goods across the sea. To be sure, these laws caused a good deal of dissatisfaction, but they were not rigidly enough enforced by the authorities to become irksome.

3. Lastly, the British statesmen came to feel that the colonists should help pay the expenses of the government, army and navy. In other words, that the colonists should be taxed to help defray the expenses of their government and military protection whose center was over three thousand miles away. On this question the colonists came to develop some characteristic views of their own.

Now that the menace of a French nation to the north and west was no longer to be feared, the colonies had no need to petition Parliament for armies of redcoats to protect them from invasion, and indeed, each colony had long had its own militia which was now experienced in warfare and even more competent in dealing with the Indians than the British soldiers could possibly be with their formal European methods of fighting. Then too, during the wars the colonies had grown not only more populous and more wealthy, but also more self-confident.

In the absence of direct governmental authority, they had fallen into the way of making and enacting their own laws, sometimes even in defiance of disapproval from England. Gradually, the local colonial assemblies had gained powers for themselves until some of them were able to control the actions of the British governors sent to direct them. While they were closely bound to the motherland by a common culture, language, and relationship, the necessities of colonial life had bred many customs and conventions into them that were American rather than English. British common law did not always fulfil the needs of American justice, and gradually it gave way before pioneer practices; American hardships had demanded a

democratic outlook upon life which could not be found amongst all classes of Englishmen; America had always been the home of Protestant religious freedom, a hotbed of dissention according to the English clergy. Then, too, the colonies had welcomed the German, the Irish, and the Scotch emigrants who came into their midst by the thousands throughout the eighteenth century, bringing with them bitter memories and hatred for the landed aristocracy and the priestly dictators of the old feudal Europe.

Thus, gradually, as the colonists began to build up their own customs and traditions, they became, not Englishmen in an English colony, but Americans in their own country, manifesting a pride in those things which their labor and wealth had helped to create, and feeling less and less need for the political ties that bound them to Great Britain.

Not only were the colonists in a more independent frame of mind, but the British government became more oppressive. In 1760, George III came to the throne determined to rule his empire as an English king should; his father and grandfather (George I and George II) were Hanoverians who had never even troubled themselves to learn the English language and had left the affairs of the British government entirely in the hands of their ministers. Much mismanagement had ensued, and now England felt heavily the burdensome expense of war, and the public debt had mounted to what was then considered to be an enormous sum. Great Britain, he argued, had waged a costly war to defend the colonists on the Atlantic coast from French aggression. More troops were now needed to prevent renewed danger from the French, Spaniards, or Indians. What could be more natural than that the colonists should pay at least part of the expense of such protection?

Consequently, in 1764, a Sugar Act was enacted which placed a tax upon sugar imported into the colonies. This

in itself was nothing new. Actually, the duty on sugar and molasses was halved by this new Act. The new part of the ordinance was that earnest efforts were made to collect the tax and to do this the old Navigation Acts were rigidly enforced and British naval officers were ordered to put a stop to the smuggling of molasses, which had become a common practice. The Sugar Act was expected to yield one-third of the amount demanded by the British government.

The other two-thirds was to be raised under the Stamp Act of 1765. Official documents, wills, newspapers, playing cards, and even college diplomas were to bear a tax stamp to make them legal. Naturally, the class of the population upon whom this tax rested most heavily—newspaper publishers, lawyers, bankers, and merchants—rose in protest. To them the tax was unconstitutional. Parliament had no right to tax the colonies. The words of James Otis, a Boston lawyer, "Taxation without Representation is Tyranny" became a battle cry.

As the time for the execution of the Stamp Act approached, more or less violent demonstrations occurred in Boston, New York, and many other localities. The stamps were seized by the mobs and the stamp distributors were forced to resign or flee for their lives. Great was the rejoicing when, in 1766, the offensive Act was repealed. It seemed to the colonists as though they had achieved a great victory over the distant British Parliament.

Their rejoicing, however, was only short lived, for Parliament was preparing for them a series of even more drastic and intolerable acts, which began in 1767 with the Townshend Act. Now the tax was shifted and placed upon such articles of import as might be considered to be luxuries—window glass, lead, paper, tea, and many other things.

The colonists, after their recent success, were quick to resent this further attempt at taxation. The patriotic

merchants agreed to refuse to buy such staples from English ships and the people refused to buy such products from the merchants that did. For three years England's trade dwindled and fell away while colonial smuggling again became a patriotic occupation. Finally, troops were sent from England to overawe Boston, but the angry Bostonians hooted and hissed them and, in 1770, provoked them to actual bloodshed.

The story of a "Boston Massacre" ran like wild fire from one colony to another and had a marked influence on all the colonists. It was the kind of argument that the average citizen could understand. At this crucial moment, however, the troops were removed from Boston and the Townshend Act was repealed. Merely a small tax upon tea was retained so that the colonists might not think that Parliament had surrendered its right to tax them.

But even this did not please the colonists. They insisted that if they paid this tax, no matter how trifling it was, Parliament would soon bring heavier taxes to bear upon them. They refused to buy the tea. In New York and Philadelphia the masters of tea ships were persuaded to turn back without unloading their tea. In Charleston, the cargoes were locked up in the government warehouse, but in Boston a more spectacular thing occurred. On a cold December night, in 1773, a number of citizens dressed up as Indians, boarded a British tea ship, and emptied 342 chests of tea into the harbor.

When the news of Boston's "Tea Party" reached London, drastic measures were taken to punish these lawless offenders. In 1774, five "Intolerable Acts" were passed; intolerable at least to the people of New England. Boston harbor was closed to all trade; Massachusetts was practically deprived of self-government; royal officials who committed crimes were to be sent to England for trial; the British province of Quebec was to be extended

south to the Ohio; and British troops were sent to occupy Boston and were to be housed and provided for by the colony.

Agitators in the other colonies feared that their turn would come next, and rallied to the aid of Massachusetts. Elections were held and delegates were chosen from all Colonies, except Georgia, to meet in Philadelphia in a Continental Congress for the purpose of consulting together and adopting such measures as were best calculated to secure the just rights of the colonists and redress their grievances. The Congress dispatched a petition to the king declaring the wrongs committed against the colonists and voted to support Massachusetts to the utmost. An "American Association" was formed composed of colonies which agreed to import no English products and to export nothing to any British port.

2

On October 26, 1774, Congress dissolved, having planned to meet again the following year. The colonies had at last come to understand one another and the people were ready to face the worst that might come together. The country was full of warlike preparations. Arms were bought and military companies were being formed. Drilling was soon under way on every village green.

In Boston, the redcoats under General Gage anxiously watched the gathering storm in Massachusetts. It was rumored that the continentals were collecting ammunition at Concord, eighteen miles away. On the evening of April 18, 1775, Gage sent eight hundred of his men to seize these military stores. But the patriots were on the alert. A lantern in the tower of the North Church flashed the news of their departure to messengers who awaited the signal. Throughout the night the beat of horses'

hoofs upon the dusty highways and a hurried call in the dark "the British are coming" warned the folks throughout the quiet countryside.

When gray morning dawned, the British regulars had reached the little town of Lexington. There, drawn up in a ragged military line across the common, waited a company of sixty ununiformed farmers, their muskets in their hands. The marching column halted. Neither side was anxious to fire the first shot.

"Disperse! Ye rebels! Lay down your arms!" The command came from the British officer. The patriots stood their ground.

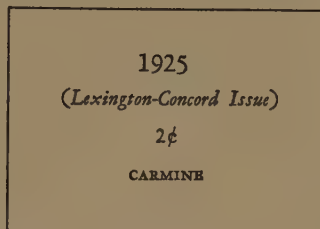


FIG. 22

A shot rang out. Nobody knows from where. A volley from the British column answered it and then the troops moved on toward Concord, leaving behind them of the valiant militiamen eight dead and ten wounded.

Arriving at Concord, they made haste to destroy what of the remaining supplies had not been carried away by the natives, and quickly began their retreat to Boston. By this

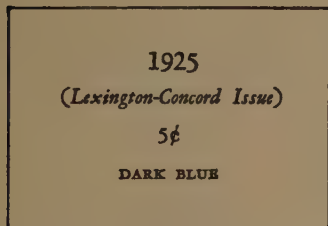


FIG. 23

FIG. 22. The "Birth of Liberty" stamp was issued on Apr. 19, 1925, to commemorate the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord. The illustration, which is from a photograph of a painting, now hanging in the Lexington Town Hall, by Henry Sandborn, shows the valiant stand of the ununiformed farmers. The border design is made up of crossed muskets and powder horn. The dates 1775 and 1925 appear upon the stamp.

FIG. 23. The "Minute Man" stamp shows the famous statue which now stands at Concord. This is the first United State postage stamp to use literature as one of the major themes of design. The first four verses of James Russell Lowell's commemorative poem appear upon two panels. Thirty-seven words and four numbers are engraved upon this unique postage stamp.

time the countryside was swarming with militia. The minute men were coming from far and near to avenge the British insult to their rights and freedom. Every rock, tree, or fence that offered cover concealed angry Americans who fired upon the regulars as they beat their hurried retreat. Fresh troops were dispatched from Boston to escort the harassed invaders, and only by this means did they return to safety, but with a loss of 273 killed, wounded, and missing. The minute men lost 93 in all, and followed the retreating column in force to the very outskirts of Boston.

This was the beginning. This was the birth of liberty. The "shot heard round the world" had been fired at Lexington and Concord.

3

The news of Lexington and Concord flew rapidly southward, hastening the preparations for war in all of the colonies. The Continental Congress assembled for a second time in Philadelphia and voted to raise an army for defense and appointed as its commander-in-chief the Virginian, George Washington.

At this time, George Washington was a gentleman planter living upon his estate, Mount Vernon, one of the beauty spots along the Potomac River. He had reached the age of forty-three years and was considered one of the wealthiest men in America. Much of his life had been spent in the service of Virginia. During the French and Indian War he had risen to the rank of a colonel in the militia and had proved himself to be a leader of calm and intelligent courage. For many years he had been a prominent member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and had concerned himself with the problems of government that vexed the colonial leaders of that day. Finally, in 1774, the Virginia

convention appointed him as one of seven delegates to the First Continental Congress, and with this appointment began his national career.

When the call came to Washington, as a member of the Second Continental Congress, to act as commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the United Colonies, he accepted the position. Refusing any payment and asking only the reimbursement of his expenses, he modestly

requested those members who had elected him to remember his declaration that he did not believe himself to be equal to the command, and that he accepted it only as a duty made imperative by the unanimity of the call. He was commissioned on June 17, 1775, and set out at once for Cambridge, Massachusetts, where the army was assembled for action against the British who held Boston.

On July 2, Washington arrived at Cambridge and took formal command of the troops. The army was in confusion, supplies were lacking, enthusiasm

was cooling and many of the men were going home. Washington's presence, however, worked a change. He was a man to be respected; order reappeared, recruits came in, and the army recovered its spirits. Supplies came in from unexpected sources and

by the following spring Washington was ready to move upon Boston. Soon the city and the British vessels in the

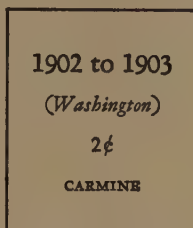


FIG. 24

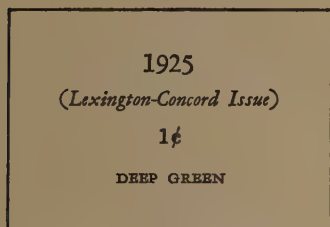


FIG. 25

FIG. 24. Washington's portrait, reproduced from the famous painting by Gilbert Stuart, is framed by a border of early United States flags. Below, the dates of his birth (1732) and death (1799) are given.

FIG. 25. Here Washington is shown standing under the famous Cambridge elm tree, reviewing his troops for the first time. The stamp reproduces a chart owned by the Cambridge Public Library.

harbor were at the mercy of the American guns which commanded the heights. On March 17, 1776, the evacuation of Boston was begun by the British, who sailed to Halifax, leaving the city a base for colonial operations.

4

Vermont, at this time, was a province claimed by New York, but the "Yorkers" were hated in Vermont even more than were the British. Vermont had always refused to recognize the authority of New York to govern it and contended for the organization of its territory into a separate province. As early as 1763, in a ceremony on the summit of Mt. Pisgah, the territory had been christened "Verd Mont, in token that her hills shall be green and never die." As a defense against invasion from the west the frontiersmen had organized a militia and called themselves the "Green Mountain Boys."

In 1771, Ethan Allen, a man of rough and ready humor and of a shrewdness in thought and action, became the leader of this organization. When the news of the fighting at Lexington and Concord reached Vermont, he immediately began to raise a force to advance upon the British forts which held Lake Champlain, the water route between the Hudson and St. Lawrence rivers.

On May 10, three weeks after the battle of Lexington, Allen and his 83 daring Green Mountain volunteers were

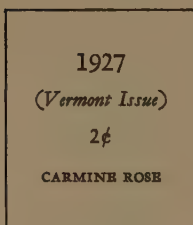


FIG. 26

FIG. 26. This stamp pictures a "Green Mountain Boy" dressed in his buckskin uniform and carrying a long rifle of the period. The background is composed of hemlock and cedar trees, symbolic of the "ever green hills." Although the people of Vermont performed their share in the Revolution, they had no voice in the Continental Congress. In 1777, they declared themselves an independent state, and did not join the confederation until after the war, being the fourteenth state of the Union. This stamp commemorates the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of their independence and also the battle of Bennington (see p. 52).

before Fort Ticonderoga. Cautiously they waited until night had fallen and the soldier life within the fort had quieted down. The sleepy sentinals on guard never dreamt that there was an enemy within two hundred miles of their isolated post. At midnight they silently stole from their hiding place and crept up to the very gates of the fort. Then, at a signal from their colonel, the silent soldiers broke into an uproar. What a din they made! They yelled; they roared; they cheered; and the battery of rolling drums beat an ever louder "Advance," while Ethan Allen pounded heavily upon the closed door and demanded the surrender of the fort.

To the startled British commander and his frightened troops it sounded like an army of many hundreds outside the gate.

"Surrender on what authority, sir?" protested the astonished commandant.

"In the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress," thundered Allen from the outside. And this strong post, which had defied armies in the French and Indian War, swung its gates wide in surrender without a single shot being fired in its defense.

Next the fort further up the lake at Crown Point fell and soon afterward Fort St. John. They were all store-houses for large quantities of guns and ammunition, which proved very helpful to the Americans.

5

With the evacuation of Boston the colonial cause was brought to the height of its success; and urged on by the entire country, Congress began to talk of independence. Compromise was no longer possible, for King George grew daily more bent on punishing the colonies. He found it difficult to get Englishmen to enlist for the war, so he secured about 20,000 German troops, "Hessians," purchas-

ing them from their ruler, the Duke of Hesse, like so many cattle at so much per head. The news that these Hessians had been hired to slay them hardened the hearts of the Americans against England, perhaps more than anything else. Wavering members of the Congress became firm, and on July 2, 1776, a Declaration of Independence was voted upon by the Second Continental Congress.

This Declaration of Independence, chiefly the work of Thomas Jefferson, was formally adopted on July 4 and

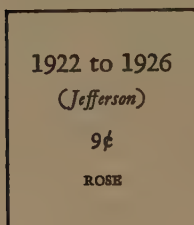


FIG. 27

is one of the great documents of history. In it is stated the theoretical basis of the American government. This new nation was henceforth to be a republic in which all men were equal before the law, and indeed the law itself was to be derived from the will of the people and executed with their consent by the representatives which they selected. In justification of Revolution, the Declaration further set forth a long series of acts of tyranny committed by the king and parliament against which the colonies had protested in vain. It closed with the noble assertion that "these united colonies are, and by right ought to be, free and independent states," and for the support of this assertion they mutually pledged to each other "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

John Hancock, the president of the Congress, was the first to sign this great document, and he signed in a bold and flourishing hand which "the King of England could read without spectacles." The other signatures followed, and, finally, the Declaration was endorsed by the representatives of all the colonies. That completed the work;

FIG. 27. This postage stamp was issued on Jan. 15, 1923. Thomas Jefferson was born Apr. 2, 1743, at Shadwell, Albemarle County, Va., and died at Monticello, in the same county on July 4, 1826. This stamp pictures Jefferson as the third President of the United States (see p. 72).

the thirteen British colonies had ceased to exist; in their place stood a new nation—the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

On July 5, the few copies of the Declaration which had been printed were sent to the governors of the several states and to the commanding officers of the Revolutionary armies. On the eighth it was read to the people of Philadelphia gathered in the State House Square. Everywhere it won the approval of the patriots. In Philadelphia, the "Liberty Bell" which hung in the tower of the Old State House (now called "Independence Hall") was rung until it nearly cracked with the joyous peal, while the citizens made holiday in the streets. In New York, the people celebrated the news by pulling down the gilded lead statue of King George and melting it up into bullets for the army.

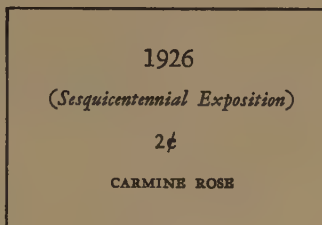


FIG. 28

6

The next move of the British was against New York City, which held the central position on the Atlantic Coast. If they could get possession of the city and the Hudson River they could prevent the New England colonists and those south of New York from helping each other. By the beginning of August, 1776, General Howe had 32,000 troops stationed on Staten Island, while a British fleet guarded the entrance in the lower bay.

FIG. 28. This stamp was issued during the one hundred fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia. The old bell, which tolled the news of a great nation's birth, is pictured as it is now rests in Independence Hall. In 1778, the Liberty Bell was taken to Allentown to escape a British raid, and was not rehung until sometime after the close of the war. It was cracked in 1818 while tolling the death of Chief Justice John Marshall.

General Washington had also recognized the importance of New York as a strategic position and, as soon as the evacuation of Boston gave him the opportunity, he hastened there with his army. Fortifications were quickly erected to protect the city, which was then on the lower part of Manhattan Island, and to keep the British from sailing up the Hudson.

General Howe now saw that if he could take Brooklyn Heights and plant his cannon there, he could drive Washington out of the city, just as Washington, by seizing Dorchester Heights, had driven him from Boston.

The American general, Israel Putnam, was in command of the Heights with about 9,000 men, while Washington defended the city of New York, just across the East River. Howe's attack was made on the morning of August 27. Dividing his army of trained British regulars and Hessians into three columns, he sent the first to threaten the Americans along the shore, another was to move across country on their center, while a third was to make a wide detour around their left. The Americans were completely surprised by this offensive and, taken in front and rear, were forced back into the village of Brooklyn with a loss of 1,500 men, 1,100 of whom were captured.

Had it not been for Washington's energy and skill Putnam with his whole force would certainly have been captured. During the night a dense fog came up and under cover of it Washington got all of Putnam's men safely across the river into New York. In the morning when Howe reached out his hand to take the prize that he thought awaited him, he found that his "rebels" had flown.

New York was now abandoned, the Americans retreating toward the northern end of the island. Washington was anxious to learn what the British intended doing next and called for a volunteer to enter the British line to secure information. The volunteer accepted was Captain

Nathan Hale, a young soldier from Connecticut who had just passed his twentieth birthday.

Nathan Hale was a graduate of Yale College and for two years had been a school teacher. With the outbreak of the war he joined a Connecticut regiment and served in the siege of Boston. His patriotism and daring soon earned for him the rank of captain, and now at General Washington's bidding he entered the enemy's line and proceeded to New York disguised as a Dutch schoolmaster. His adventure, however, was short lived, for on September 21 he was detected by the British and arrested.

A military court hastily condemned him to be hanged as a spy and the following day he was executed. The penalty was in accordance with military law, but Captain Hale's act was a brave one, and he has always been glorified as a martyr. His courageous last words, "I only regret I have but one life to lose for my country," were soon repeated at every patriot's fireside throughout the land.

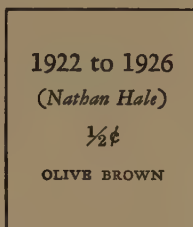


FIG. 29

7

While General Howe was establishing himself with his British and Hessian troops in New York City, General Washington was concentrating his army in the wooded hills about twenty miles to the north in the vicinity of what is now the city of White Plains. The British general had been slow in following up his victory over General Putnam in Brooklyn and it was not until past the middle of October that he began to advance upon White Plains by way of Long Island Sound.

FIG. 29. This postage stamp was issued on Apr. 4, 1925. The head pictured upon the stamp is reproduced from the statue of Nathan Hale by Bela Lyon Pratt which stands on the Yale University campus at New Haven, Conn.

Patiently the Americans awaited their coming. Rude earthwork fortifications had been thrown up on Chatterton's Hill, on the west bank of the little Bronx River, and were defended by about 1,600 men. This point Howe attacked on October 28, his troops advancing in two columns 4,000 strong. For some time the attack was stubbornly resisted, but the numbers were so greatly against the Americans that they were finally forced to retreat. Their defense, however, had been so vigorous and their fire so deadly that the enemy was completely demoralized and made no attempt to follow the Americans who retreated in good order carrying their dead and wounded (about 125) away with them. The British had lost about 250 men and were ordered to return to Manhattan.

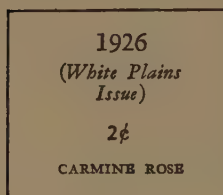


FIG. 30

Although the battle of White Plains was a technical defeat for the Continental army, it proved to be of great value in encouraging the fighting spirit of Washington's men who had outshot the British regulars two to one, and it had again demonstrated to the patriots of the new states the superiority of George Washington's generalship.

8

The struggle for American independence was well under way by the summer of 1777. In this year the decisive battles of the war were fought.

Washington, after leaving White Plains the previous autumn, had begun a bold retreat across New Jersey

FIG. 30. Issued Oct. 18, 1926, to commemorate the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the battle of White Plains (Oct. 28, 1776). The central picture is a gun crew of Colonel Alexander Hamilton's battery in action, and underneath is shown an early design of the national flag and a regimental flag with the design of a crossed sword and staff with a Liberty Cap under the words, "Liberty or Death."

followed by the ambitious young British general, Lord Cornwallis. Washington had realized that the safety of his army and of his country's cause lay in flight. In the face of overwhelming forces he was brave enough to retreat and wait his opportunity, although many patriots began to despair of success. Arriving at Trenton, he decided that he could not hold New Jersey and crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. The British would have followed but no boats were available, the clever American general had seized every boat for nearly a hundred miles up and down the river, and there was nothing for them to do but make the best of conditions in Trenton until the stream could freeze over.

On Christmas night (1776) Washington with a force of less than 2,500 men, re-crossed the Delaware—then full of floating ice—and under the protection of a driving snow storm marched to Trenton. With scarce the loss of a single man he took the city by surprise, capturing a large quantity of arms and amunition and sending a thousand Hessian prisoners to Philadelphia as a Christmas present to the Continental Congress in session there.

Another victory over the British occurred a few days later (January 3) at Princeton, and Washington began to retrace his steps across the state until he was safe and snug in the hills about Morristown, in northern New Jersey. Here the army spent the winter without being molested.

Meanwhile, the British made a new move. General Burgoyne marched from Canada with almost eight-thousand troops by way of Lake Champlain and took Fort Ticonderoga. His plan was to push forward toward the Hudson River where he expected to be joined by a part of Howe's army from New York.

Another British expedition from Canada was coming across the Mohawk Valley under General St. Leger to unite with Burgoyne. The three English armies expected

to get control of all New York and the Hudson River, and so cut off New England from the other colonies.

All had been well with Burgoyne until he entered the wilderness south of Lake Champlain. His progress had been very slow and now he was beginning to run out of supplies. General Schuyler, in charge of the New York and New England militia, did everything in his power to hinder Burgoyne's movement—breaking bridges, felling trees across the forest road, raiding his supply train—so that he was twenty days getting from the foot of Lake Champlain to the Hudson River, a distance of barely as many miles. In the meantime the country folks were rallying to oppose the invaders.

Burgoyne had been told that the people of Vermont were loyal, and he now decided to send 800 of his German troops into Vermont to bring back horses and supplies for the army. Events showed how greatly he was misinformed. The Vermonters rose in great numbers and, under the leadership of Colonel John Stark, met the Hessians at Bennington. In a vigorous battle on August 16 the British force was nearly all killed or captured.

To Burgoyne, the loss of 800 men was a serious blow, but the information soon afterward that St. Leger's expedition through the Mohawk Valley was driven back to Canada brought greater dismay. That officer had reached Oswego safely and then proceeded to march upon Fort Stanwix (now Rome, New York) on the upper Mohawk. This post held a garrison of about 750 men and St. Leger settled down to a regular siege. The German settlers of the valley were loyal Americans and flew to arms under General Herkimer, who led some 800 of them to the relief of the besieged fort. At Oriskany they marched into a trap set for them by St. Leger, but instead of retreating these hardy pioneers leaped behind trees and stones and fought so well in frontier fashion that the British were

driven back to the fort, only to find that their provisions had been taken during their absence by the Americans from the fort. St. Leger, now deserted by his Indians and learning that a strong force of Americans was descending upon him from Albany, retreated hastily to Lake Ontario.

These successes so encouraged the Americans that before many weeks passed thousands of volunteers were recruited to press upon Burgoyne, and his army was entirely surrounded. After four weeks of skirmishing in which he lost more than 1,000 men, Burgoyne, on October 17, surrendered his entire army to General Gates at Saratoga.

It was a great victory for the Americans. In all, nearly 10,000 men had been taken—almost one-third of the British forces in America. Astonishment prevailed in England at this capture of an entire British army, generals, flags, cannon, supplies, and all. No such catastrophe had befallen their arms for centuries. Even King George wrote to his prime minister, Lord North: "The time may come when it will be wise to abandon all North America but Canada, Nova Scotia, and the Floridas."

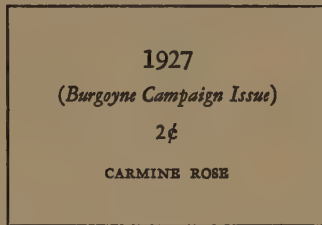


FIG. 31

9

Had troops from New York joined Burgoyne, as the British plan called for, perhaps a different story would have to be written about the victory at Saratoga. General

FIG. 31. Issued Aug. 3, 1927, to commemorate the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the victory at Saratoga (Oct. 17, 1777). The central picture shows Burgoyne in the act of presenting his sword in surrender to General Gates. The stamp also bears, as a border, the names of the important battles which led up to the final victory—Fort Stanwix, Oriskany, Bennington, and Saratoga.

Howe had other plans for his New York army and had sent most of his forces from there to capture Philadelphia, the capital of the new states. Embarking in a great fleet of 250 ships, he sailed to the south and entered Chesapeake Bay.

General Washington moved southward immediately to protect the capital, and on September 11, 1777, the two armies faced each other at Brandywine Creek. But the British so outnumbered the Continental army that Washington was forced to retire during the night to safety. On September 24 the British entered Philadelphia and began to fortify it. Most of the British army, however, went into camp at Germantown, seven miles from Philadelphia, and early in the morning of October 4, Washington attacked the camp. The attack was made in a dense fog, which made the surprise a success, but led to confusion on both sides and Washington was compelled to withdraw with a very heavy loss.

In December, Washington went into winter quarters at Valley Forge, where he could keep his eye on Philadelphia. The winter that followed was a most severe one and a gloomy period for the cause of American liberty. Without funds Congress could do practically nothing for the army, which suffered terribly. Washington's men were suffering from exposure—many without shoes; tattered and frayed clothing; no stockings nor coats nor blankets. In camp or garrison there was little to eat, and less to drink; there was never meat on hand beyond the requirements of the immediate future and often there was none at all. Men were dying every day from fevers, and the number of desertions from the ranks became alarming. All this suffering was due to mismanagement, stupidity, and inexperience on the part of the new government, and to the lack of roads and vehicles for transportation. Food was plentiful in Pennsylvania, but the farmers would not

sell it for worthless continental paper currency, although they gave it readily in exchange for British hard coin. While Valley Forge froze and starved, the British in Philadelphia feasted and were merry.

Valley Forge, however, was not entirely without a brighter side. Throughout all of these trials and hardships the sincerity and faith of their great general stood as an inspiration and a promise to the men of the army. Then, too, it was during this winter that foreign officers began to join our ranks. From France came the gallant Marquis de Lafayette. Without waiting for his country's alliance this ardent young nobleman fitted out a ship at his own expense and joined the army during the campaign around Philadelphia. Washington made him his chief aid at Valley Forge. The Baron de Kalb, as well as Count Pulaski, from Germany and Poland, proved efficient officers, and the Prussian general, Baron Steuben, undertook to drill and train the American troops throughout that winter, until their skill and discipline were not inferior to that of the British regulars.

When the spring of 1778 arrived, General Washington, in spite of all the obstacles placed in his way, was able to bring forth a more enthusiastic and a better fighting force than ever before.

10

In the latter part of 1776, Benjamin Franklin was sent to France to secure loans of money and, if possible, mili-

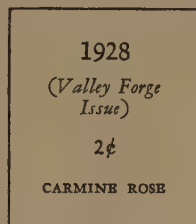


FIG. 32

FIG. 32. This stamp, issued May 26, 1928, pictures Washington seeking divine guidance in the solution of his difficult problems. In the back ground may be seen his patient charger waiting for him and soldiers endeavoring to warm themselves around a campfire. The scene is a reproduction of a popular American etching. Although United States coins have for years borne the motto, "In God We Trust," this is the first postage stamp to bear that inscription.

tary aid. Franklin at this time was an old man, seventy years old, but a patriot willing to sacrifice home comforts and brave a hazardous ocean crossing for the welfare of his country.

As a young man he had come to Philadelphia from Boston, for the purpose of seeking his fortune, and had soon established himself as a pioneer printer and book-seller. Philadelphia at that time was the largest city on this side of the Atlantic. In 1736, he was chosen clerk of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and from that time

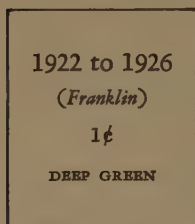


FIG. 33

onward the performance of many public and patriotic duties occupied his time. As early as 1756, at the Albany Congress, Franklin had urged the necessity of the colonies forming a plan of union, but his advice was not heeded. When the federation of the colonies was formed, after the

outbreak of the war, Franklin was a member of the committee who, with Thomas Jefferson, drew up the Declaration of Independence.

When Franklin arrived in Paris, he was already one of the most talked of men in the world. He was a member of every important learned society in Europe; three editions of his scientific works had already appeared in Paris, and his political mission—the dismemberment of the British Empire—was applauded by every citizen of France.

In 1777, when Franklin began his negotiations at the French court, the ministers of Louis XVI were willing to give open assistance to America if Spain would promise

FIG. 33. This postage stamp was issued Jan. 17, 1923. The portrait upon this stamp follows the one after Rubricht's bust, which has been familiar on United States stamps for over half a century. Franklin has appeared upon the one-cent denominations of almost every issue of United States postage stamps. He was the first colonial Postmaster General—the father of the American postal service—and also the first Postmaster General under the federation of states which were to become the United States.

to do the same. But before the proper steps could be taken, news came that Howe was in Philadelphia and that Burgoyne had taken Fort Ticonderoga, and had the Hudson Valley at his mercy. Then there was a period of hesitation and watchful waiting. Finally, there came the news of Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga, which completely broke up the British plans for the war. Paris rejoiced as though it had been a French victory, and immediately work was begun upon a treaty which, when signed on February 6, 1778, promised financial, naval, and military aid to the United States. France was also at war once again with Great Britain.

Millions of dollars from France now provisioned our armies; thousands of French soldiers swelled our ranks, and now America could count upon a French navy to defend her harbors from British sea invasion. Franklin and Washington were the two great men who carried the war to final success: Washington by destroying enemies, Franklin by gaining friends; Washington by the sword, Franklin with the purse.

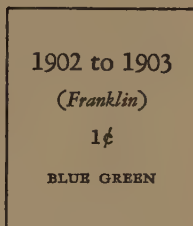


FIG. 34

11

In the spring of 1778, General Howe was replaced by General Henry Clinton who had orders to evacuate Philadelphia and concentrate his troops around New York City. Obeying these orders he sent off his heavy baggage and marched with the army northward through New

FIG. 34. This stamp presents a fullface picture of Benjamin Franklin. Below the central picture are given the dates of his birth (1706) and death (1790). After the Revolution, Franklin became the President of Pennsylvania in 1785, and was re-elected in 1786 and 1787. He was also a delegate to the convention that framed the Constitution of the United States, in 1787.

Jersey. George Washington, in his camp at Valley Forge, received early news of his maneuver and with about 15,000 men hastened to overtake him. On June 28, the Americans fell upon Clinton's army at Monmouth, in southern New Jersey, and a sharp struggle ensued.

Both courage and treachery manifested itself in this battle at Monmouth. It was here that Mary Ludwig Hays won fame and the nickname of "Molly Pitcher," and it was here that the American general, Charles Lee, earned dishonor and almost succeeded in betraying the cause for which he fought.

Mary Ludwig was born at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on October 13, 1744, and in 1769 married John Hays, a gunner in Procter's First Pennsylvania Artillery. She had followed her husband during all of his military actions and was popular with everyone. The day of the battle of Monmouth was very hot, and Molly tirelessly carried water in a pitcher from a nearby spring to the gun crews, and so was soon hailed as "Molly Pitcher." When her husband was wounded, she took his place at the cannon and, thus, in helping to win the battle, wrote her name on the pages of history.

The battle would have been a great victory for Washington's men if General Lee had done his duty. Leading the main attack, he proceeded to fall back almost immediately. Washington, preparing to support Lee by an attack elsewhere, learned that the advance was falling back. Placing his troops across their way he checked the

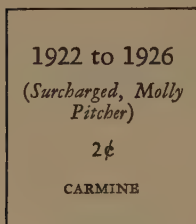


FIG. 35

FIG. 35. This postage stamp was issued Oct. 20, 1928, to commemorate the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Monmouth and "Molly Pitcher's" bravery (Oct. 28, 1778). This stamp is the two-cent Washington of the regular 1922 to 1926 issue, upon which has been overprinted the name *Molly Pitcher*. George Washington was so pleased with the heroism shown by Molly in the battle that he commissioned her a regular sergeant in the army.

British advance and held the enemy at bay until night had fallen. During the night the British fled and succeeded in reaching New York before Washington could overtake them.

There were no further important movements in 1778. A French fleet arrived during the summer and Washington made his headquarters in the mountains around West Point—a stronghold in which the Americans were secure from Clinton's attack.

12

In the Great Northwest, the territory north of the Ohio River to the Mississippi, the British, who now held the old French forts, were urging the Indians to war against the American settlers of Kentucky and Tennessee. Colonel Henry Hamilton, the British governor of the territory, had offered to buy as many scalps as the Indians could bring him, and thus he came to be known by the horrible name of "Hair Buyer."

George Rogers Clark, a native of Virginia, who had been a soldier in the Indian War, set out with a secret expedition against the British posts north of the Ohio. Early in 1778, he had secured a commission as lieutenant-colonel from Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia and the authority to raise a troop of 350 men. In May, he set out from Wheeling, marched down the Ohio and into what is now Illinois with less than 200 men, taking without resistance the French towns of Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes.

In the winter following, Hamilton, who knew how weak Clark's resources were, came southward from Detroit and occupied Vincennes. Feeling perfectly secure, he sent away all his troops except 80, and settled down for the winter. However, he under-rated the determination of

his opponent, who on February 5 set out for Vincennes over almost two hundred miles of trackless wilderness with a band of 170 men. Their path lay through a flat lowland region and often they had to push forward for miles through ice-cold water, waist-deep. To add to their sufferings, their provisions gave out, but luck sent them a deer, and a little later they captured an Indian canoe with some food in it. But neither hunger, cold, nor exhaustion

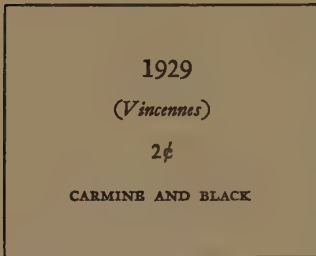


FIG. 36

could force them to turn back, and on February 24, they appeared before Fort Sackville at Vincennes and completely surprised the "Hair Buyer" who thought that Clark could not possibly pass the flooded lands for many months to come. The next day the fort was surrendered and British influence

came to an end in the Great Northwest.

George Rogers Clark's services were of enormous value to the United States, because his conquest of the Northwest served as a basis, at the peace negotiations of 1782 to 1783, of America's claim to the great territory. But for this conquest, this territory would have been retained by Great Britain or passed into the hands of Spain.

13

The Iroquois Indians, who had been roused by Burgoyne, were now joined by the British loyalists, and committed cruel massacres upon the frontiers of New York

FIG. 36. This postage stamp was issued on Feb. 25, 1929, to celebrate the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of George Rogers Clark's victory at Vincennes and his conquest of the Great Northwest. The central picture is from a painting by F. C. Yohn, showing the surrender of Fort Sackville. Colonel Hamilton is pictured surrendering his sword to Clark outside the fort.

and Pennsylvania, especially at Wyoming and Cherry Valley. In 1779, General John Sullivan, with an expedition of about four thousand men, was sent to punish the Indians.

General Sullivan had been a delegate to the Continental Congress, in 1774, from New Hampshire. The following year he received the appointment of brigadier-general and had commanded a brigade in the siege of Boston. At the battle of Brooklyn Heights he had been taken prisoner and after his exchange had taken an important part in the battles of Trenton, Brandywine, and Germantown.

Now, in 1779, he marched into the Tioga Valley and met the Indians and Tories under Sir John Johnson at Newtown (now Elmira), New York, on August 29. He defeated them completely, burned their villages, and destroyed their orchards and crops all through central New York, so that many perished of hunger. The Iroquois never recovered from this blow; their power was ended.

It was also in 1779 that General Anthony Wayne, "Mad Anthony," made himself famous by his successful storming of Stony Point on the Hudson. At the head of a few hundred men with unloaded muskets, he crept close to the British embankments and carried them at the point of the bayonet. The garrison of nearly six hundred men was captured, together with large quantities of valuable military stores. The British had boasted that the Americans did not understand the use of the bayonet. "Mad Anthony" Wayne showed them that they were wrong (see also Chap. III, p. 70).

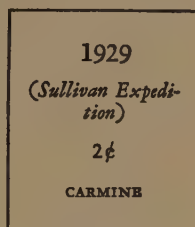


FIG. 37

FIG. 37. This postage stamp was issued in July 1929, to commemorate the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the Sullivan expedition. Major-general Sullivan is pictured in uniform holding in his hand a rounded shaft (which may be a spear).

These were the last serious battles in the North. The war languished, for England had her hands full abroad. Spain had joined France and America against her, and in 1781 Holland was added to the alliance. Under these circumstances England made no further efforts at actual conquest in the region where she had been so sharply rebuffed. Her policy toward her colonies became merely to harry and harass them by plundering and burning the towns along the coast. The only northern city to be permanently occupied was New York.

14

In the South, General Lord Cornwallis had been placed in command of the British troops, and throughout the years 1779 to 1780 he had brought Georgia and South Carolina under his control. Early in 1781, he determined to advance his main force into North Carolina, hoping to reduce this state to submission.

In hope of preventing this, General Nathanael Greene, whom Washington now placed in command of the southern army, sent a small force under General Morgan into South Carolina to distract the British attention. Cornwallis sent Colonel Tarleton, the most celebrated and cruelest of English cavalry leaders, against Morgan. Though fewer in number than Tarleton's band, the Americans faced him at Cowpens (January 17, 1781). Three hundred of the British were killed or wounded, and over five hundred taken prisoner.

Then began one of the most remarkable retreats in history. Cornwallis, angered by this defeat of his finest troops, hurried with his whole army to crush Morgan and retake his captured troops. Morgan hastily retreated into North Carolina where he joined General Greene. They were still too few to meet the enemy, and the retreat

was continued. Cornwallis, furious and determined, pressed on in pursuit across the entire state of North Carolina, reaching ever nearer to his prey. The Dan River in Southern Virginia was Greene's only hope, and he was successful in placing his hard-pressed troops on its further side just as Cornwallis appeared on the southern bank.

It was the dead of winter, the stream was raging, and the soldiers of both armies were exhausted. Cornwallis had advanced far beyond his source of supplies and now forced himself to abandon the pursuit and withdraw toward the seacoast.

With Cornwallis in Virginia, the country folks flocked to the aid of General Greene. In a few days he re-crossed the Dan River and advanced against Cornwallis. The two armies met at Guilford Courthouse, and fought a bloody but indecisive battle. Instead of following Cornwallis, Greene now turned southward and soon succeeded in retaking the Carolinas and shutting the British forces, left by Cornwallis, in the single strong city of Charleston.

The main seat of the war had shifted with Cornwallis to Virginia, and it was now that Washington planned his great final drive. A powerful French fleet was known to be on its way to America, and Washington by threatening New York convinced General Clinton, the English commander there, that he was to be attacked. Clinton, in alarm, sent word to Cornwallis to entrench his Virginia troops upon the Yorktown Peninsula, and send such regiments as could be spared to aid in the defense of New York.

The expected French fleet arrived off Virginia instead of New York, and at the same time Washington suddenly moved all his forces toward Yorktown. It was a week before Clinton realized it, and by that time it was too late to follow.

Arriving at Yorktown with about 6,000 men, Washington was joined by Lafayette who had advanced through

Virginia. The French fleet, which now blocked any possibility of Cornwallis's escape by sea, had also brought 3,000 more French regulars. Thus Cornwallis's 7,500 men in Yorktown were surrounded by almost 16,000 enemies.

The siege of the city began in the latter part of September. French and Americans vied with each other in storming Cornwallis's outlying foundations. He tried to force his way through their ever-strengthening lines, but was repelled. His means of resistance were exhausted and, on October 19, 1781, he surrendered himself and his entire army to

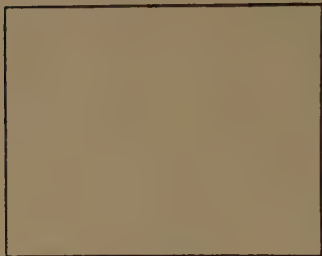


FIG. 38

Washington as prisoners of war.

The fall of Yorktown practically ended the War of the Revolution. After more than six years of fighting Washington had conquered. At the opening of Parliament in 1782, King George III announced that he was ready to acknowledge the independence of the United States. A "Peace ball" was celebrated in Virginia in honor of the French allies who had done so much to aid us, and the final treaty was signed at Paris, September 3, 1783. On November 25, of that year, the last of the British troops evacuated New York City, and the American forces led by General Washington entered it in triumph. The thirteen united States of America were fully established and recognized as independent nations.

FIG. 38. Space is here left for a stamp commemorating the campaign in the South which resulted in Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown. If the present policy of the United States postal department is continued, such an anniversary stamp should be issued about Oct. 19, 1931.



The Territorial Growth of the United States

Chapter III

THE STORY OF THE NEW NATION

I

THE Treaty of Versailles, which was signed in 1783, recognized the independence of the new United States and established her territory as extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River and from the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes on the north to Florida on the south. The land to the south and west was held by Spain.

Except for the inadequate "Articles of Confederation" there was no general government. The common danger which had brought the colonies into union was now removed, and bitter and petty state quarrels revived. Each of the thirteen states began jealously to guard its own individual rights and sovereignty. Washington said: "We were one nation yesterday, and are thirteen today." Never had this country been in greater peril than in those first years of its existence.

In 1787, the Continental Congress met at Philadelphia to decide upon a form of government. It was a momentous occasion—for the first time in the history of the world, a people through their representatives were to create a form of government for themselves. It consisted of fifty-five of the ablest men that the country had produced. Washington was chosen the presiding officer and the entire country awaited with anxiety and respect the result of the important conference.

For about five months the convention deliberated and discussed. There were two opposing currents of political

thought to be harmonized. One party desired a *union*—an indivisible republic with a central government—and the other a *league*, in which the individual state would be supreme, united with the others only for commercial and special purposes. By the plan finally adopted, two things were accomplished which had seemed impossibilities. A union was effected, perfectly firm and binding, which yet left each state in absolute control of its own affairs; and a system of representation was devised which, while it did no injustice to the large states, still gave, even to tiny Rhode Island and Delaware, equal dignity and importance with Virginia and New York.

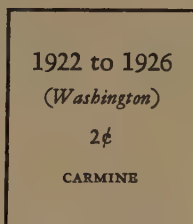


FIG. 39

Each state was to have sovereign control of its local affairs, but the federal government was to regulate such matters as concerned the nation as a whole. The coinage, postal service, army and navy, defenses and power of making war or alliances with foreign powers, belonged only to the national government. Gladstone, the famous British prime minister, said that it was "the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of Man." Washington wrote of it: "It is a little short of a miracle . . . It is provided with more checks and barriers against tyranny, than any government hitherto instituted among mortals."

The Constitution was submitted to the states for acceptance, and after discussion, more or less heated, was finally accepted. The old Continental Congress declared it adopted, named New York City as the capital of the

FIG. 39. This postage stamp, which was issued on Jan. 15, 1923, bears the portrait of George Washington which follows the well-known statue by Jean Antoine Houdon. In 1785, Houdon, the most famous French sculptor of the period traveled from Paris to Mount Vernon and made a plaster cast of Washington's features from which he later modeled his famous statue. This statue, which was taken from real life, is the standard of true likeness to the real Washington.

Union, called for elections, and set the first Wednesday of March, 1789, as the day when the new government should go into operation.

When the ballots were formally counted, it was found that George Washington, "The Father of His Country," had indeed received an honor higher than has ever been accorded to any other American. There was not one dissenting vote. By an absolutely unanimous choice, George Washington had been elected the first President of the United States of America.

2

In November of 1783, Washington had bade farewell to his army and returned quietly to the society of his wife and aged mother at Mount Vernon, his Virginia home.

When the notice of his unanimous election reached him, he made ready to travel to New York. The journey was a triumphal progress. Floral arches and cheers of

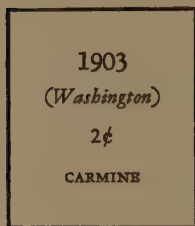


FIG. 40

welcome greeted him at every place on the way. His path was flower-strewn by fair maidens clad in white, and surely the misery of Valley Forge must have seemed like a terrible dream. On April 30, 1789, upon the balcony of the old Federal Hall in Wall Street, New York (where the New York subtreasury now stands), he took the oath of office and delivered his inaugural address. The new govern-

FIG. 40. The portrait of Washington on this stamp is taken from the painting by the famous artist of the Revolution, Gilbert Stuart, which was made at Mount Vernon in the spring of 1796. The original portrait remained in the possession of the artist until his death in 1828. Later it was sold to the Washington Association, by which it was presented to the Boston Athenaeum, in 1831. It now hangs in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. On this stamp the portrait is framed by a shield-shaped background composed of a conventionalized American flag. The dates, 1732 and 1799, Washington's birth and death, appear on the scroll which bears his name.

ment was now completely installed, and George Washington, who had been the new nation's leader in time of war, became its first guide in time of peace, and Martha Washington became the first "first lady" of the land.

For eight years Washington served as the chief officer of the United States, and these were important years in our history, for they established many principles upon which the new nation was to rest securely.

Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, put our exhausted finances in order and made every public creditor an earnest upholder of the new government by having the United States assume the individual debt of each state. When the French Revolution broke out in 1789, the citizens of France called upon America for help. Washington, however, felt that America was just slowly recovering from her own exhaustive struggle and to plunge into another war against England would have been our ruin. "Only after twenty years of peace," he declared, "could we take any strong position among nations." And his forethought once again preserved our independence.

It was understood that New York City was but the temporary capital of the country. The men of the South

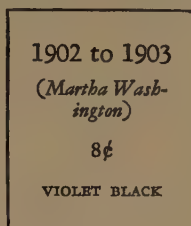


FIG. 41

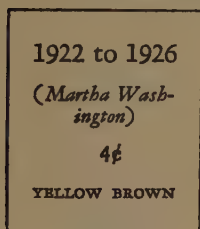


FIG. 42

FIG. 41. The portrait of Martha Washington on this stamp is reproduced from a painting by Gilbert Stuart, which was done in the spring of 1796, and which is now preserved in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. The portrait on the stamp is framed by a wreath which bears the dates of her birth (1732) and death (1802). This is the first United States postage stamp to picture an American woman. It was issued in 1902 to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of her death.

FIG. 42. This stamp was issued Jan. 15, 1923. The portrait is taken from the same source as the one in Fig. 41, but the position is reversed. Martha Washington was born in New Kent County, Virginia, in May 1732, and died at Mount Vernon on May 22, 1802. In June, 1749, she married Daniel Parke Custis, a wealthy planter, who died in 1757. In January of 1759 she became the bride of George Washington and remained his helpmate throughout all of the hardships and honors of his life.

wanted it located nearer their home. In 1790, a plot of land ten miles square on the Potomac River was ceded to the national government by Virginia to become the permanent home of the government, and it was arranged that Congress was to meet for ten years at Philadelphia and then move to the city which should be specially built for it at Washington, in this new District of Columbia.

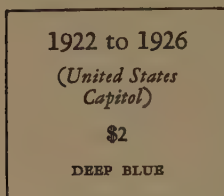


FIG. 43

Twice during his second term Washington was obliged to resort to military force. The first time (1794) was against the Indians in the Northwest Territory, who were massacring the American settlers who were intruding into their lands. Two small forces dispatched against them had been defeated. Then Washington sent General Anthony Wayne with a strong army. About sixty miles south of Detroit, General Wayne met the Indian horde in a forest that had been swept by a forest fire, and there at "Fallen Timbers" defeated them in a decisive battle. He harried them through forest and dale, destroying their fields and villages, and so completely broke their spirit that they sued humbly for peace.

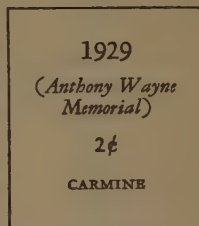


FIG. 44

FIG. 43. This postage stamp was issued on Mar. 20, 1923. The Capitol building was begun in 1792 and has been developed to its present vast proportions over a long period of time. The original building, of which the rotunda and dome were the central features, has had the great additions of the Hall of Representatives on the one side and the Senate Chamber on the other. The present dome is of cast iron and weighs nearly 4,000 tons. It was built from designs by Thomas U. Walter, of Philadelphia, and cost \$1,250,000. It took eight years to construct. The Capitol is a rich storehouse of national arts. The view on the stamp shows the House of Representative wing, with the dome and Senate wing beyond.

FIG. 44. This stamp was issued on Sept. 17, 1929, to commemorate the one-hundred and thirty-fifth anniversary of the Battle of Fallen Timbers and General Wayne's victory over the Indians. The stamp pictures the statue which was erected in honor of the great warrior and his important victory.

In the same year (1794) arose the "Whiskey Rebellion." Alexander Hamilton, in carrying out his financial schemes, had caused a heavy tax to be laid upon whiskey, and the farmers of western Pennsylvania who manufactured a great quantity of it rose in open rebellion against the government. Washington now called for 15,000 troops to march against the rebellious mountaineers. When this army reached the scene of insurrection in Pennsylvania the rioters had disappeared and no further opposition was made to the whiskey tax. A thousand men could have easily suppressed the rebellion, but in calling for 15,000 men Washington demonstrated the power of the new government and re-awakened in the minds of the people a respect for law and order which had almost disappeared.

3

In 1797, Washington refused the honor of continuing in the Presidency for a third term and retired once again to his Mount Vernon home, thus setting a precedent, which is maintained to this day, against serving for more than two terms in that office. He was succeeded by his Vice-president, John Adams of Massachusetts, who continued the resolute peace policy that Washington had insisted was the only means whereby the hard-won independence of the states could be preserved.

George Washington had been elected President of the United States by a unanimous vote and during the first six years of his administration there had been but one political party—the Federalists. Then a second political party, calling itself the Democratic-Republican party, had sprung into being under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson. By 1796, this new party had become strong enough to almost defeat the Federalist candidate, John Adams, who won the election by a majority of only three votes.

During President Adams' administration (1797 to 1801) the Democratic-Republicans continued to increase their numbers. Where the Federalists favored a strong central government, they wanted to place the supreme power in the hands of the state; where the Federalists were composed primarily of the wealthy and the aristocratic, the Democratic-Republicans were people chiefly from the middle and lower classes. The Federalists wanted to build up an industrial and commercial nation; Jefferson's party wanted to see the United States remain a great agricultural stronghold.

When the presidential election of 1801 came before the voters of the nation, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were opponents for the office, and this time Jefferson won by a substantial majority. The power of the Federalists was ended forever. The Democratic-Republicans, the upholders of the rights of the common people, were to undertake the task of governing the nation.

Thomas Jefferson had long been a leader in political affairs. He was a native of Virginia and a neighbor of George Washington's. We recall him as the author of that world-famous document—the Declaration of Independence; as the Minister to France during the hectic period immediately following the Revolutionary War; as the first

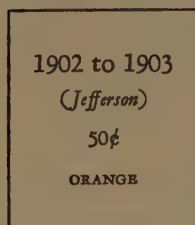


FIG. 45

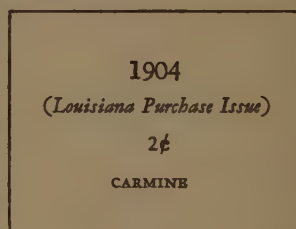


FIG. 46

FIG. 45. This postage stamp, which reproduces a portrait of Thomas Jefferson, also gives beneath the central picture the dates of his birth (1743) and death (1826).

FIG. 46. This stamp and the three following were issued in 1904 to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory (1803). On the two-cent denomination appears the portrait of Thomas Jefferson. The dates of Jefferson's birth (1743) and death (1826) appear upon the scrolls beneath the numerical valuation of the stamp.

Secretary of State in Washington's cabinet, and as the Vice-president during the administration of President Adams. We must also think of this first Democratic President as a political philosopher, for he was the leading exponent of democracy in America, and as an educator as well, for he formulated a system of national education and founded the University of Virginia for the training of American manhood.

The greatest event of Jefferson's first administration (1801 to 1805) was the purchase of the Louisiana Territory. In 1762, by the Treaty of Paris, this vast territory which was drained by the Mississippi River had been ceded by France to Spain. As long as the weak Spanish government controlled the west bank and mouth of this great central waterway, upon which three-eighths of the shipping of the United States passed, the government had little to fear. But when, in 1800, Napoleon Bonaparte compelled Spain to return this territory to France the people of our western country became very much alarmed.

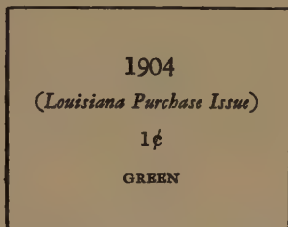


FIG. 47

When the news of this transaction reached the attention of President Jefferson, he wrote to Robert R. Livingston, our Minister in Paris, ordering him to begin negotiations with Napoleon for the purchase of the island of New Orleans and the territory of West Florida, which is now the southern parts of the states of Alabama and Missis-

FIG. 47. The central feature of this interesting stamp is the portrait of Robert R. Livingston, who helped in negotiating the Louisiana Purchase. The dates of his birth (1746) and death (1813) are given upon a scroll beneath the portrait. On the left of the stamp is pictured a scene in a Florida swamp with its palm trees, murky waters, and dead vegetation overhanging with Spanish moss—the land which they went to buy. On the right is reproduced a scene picturing the emigrant's covered wagon slowly making its toilsome way toward the ever-heightening mountains, covered with forests and capped with snow—the great land which they did buy.

issippi. An appropriation of \$2,000,000 was made by Congress for this purpose and James Monroe was sent to Paris to aid Livingston in the negotiation.

Just before Monroe arrived in Paris, Napoleon Bonaparte made a momentous decision. He was about to engage in a tremendous contest with England and was greatly in need of money to finance his campaign. He, therefore, decided to abandon his scheme of establishing a French colonial empire in the New World and ordered his minister of finance to dispose of the whole province of Louisiana to the Americans. The price finally agreed upon was 80,000,000 francs, or about \$14,500,000, and the treaty of sale was signed on May 2, 1803, by Livingston and Monroe acting for the President of the United States.

The purchase of Louisiana was the most important event in American history in the first half of the nineteenth century. It doubled the area of the United States and brought under our rule one of the most valuable tracts of land in the world, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. It completely removed the menace of a neighboring foreign power on our western

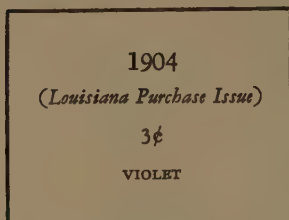


FIG. 48

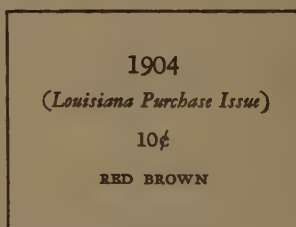


FIG. 49

FIG. 48. On this stamp the portrait of James Monroe is framed by a wreath, and the dates of his birth (1758) and death (1831) are given upon the scroll with his name. The background of this stamp is composed of conventional decorations.

FIG. 49. On this remarkable stamp is pictured a map of the United States upon which the territory of the Louisiana Purchase is shaded a dark brown, and the date, 1803, is imprinted across the extent of the purchase. Compare the size of this territory with that of the original states on the right. Can you locate your own state on this stamp map? The border of this stamp is formed by two Doric columns, symbolic of the great strength and security which this new territory afforded the Union.

boundary, and it made us the masters of the entire Mississippi River, including the port of entry—the city of New Orleans. Robert Livingston summed up the great significance of the purchase in his remark upon signing the treaty: “We have lived long; but this is the noblest work of our whole lives. From this day the United States take their place among the powers of the first rank.”

4

The success of Jefferson's first administration was remarkable from every point of view. Not only was the territory of the United States almost doubled, but the nation's debt incurred during the Revolution was practically cancelled. Friendly relations had been maintained with the foreign powers and our trade had increased by leaps and bounds. A small American fleet in the Mediterranean had put the Barbary pirates in their place; our western country was rapidly filling up, and the new states of Vermont (1791), Kentucky (1792), Tennessee (1796), and Ohio (1803), had become parts of the Union.

When the time came for another presidential vote, Jefferson was re-elected almost unanimously. He had proved himself so moderate, so generous and farseeing that his party now came to include almost the entire body of the nation.

One of the first acts of Jefferson's new term (1805–1809) was the sending of an expedition to explore the new territory acquired by the purchase of Louisiana. On May 14, 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, at the head of a scientific exploring party of thirty-five men, left the village of St. Louis and worked their way up the Missouri River to its source. By the summer of the next year they had reached the Rocky Mountains and crossed

to the gorge of the Columbia River which they followed until they at last came to the Pacific Ocean.

Wintering at the mouth of the Columbia River, they returned by practically the same route as they had come and reached St. Louis in September, 1806. They had been gone nearly two and one-half years. In boats, on horseback, and on foot, through a savage and unknown country, they had traveled more than eight thousand miles, and brought back to the people of the country a knowledge of the immense extent, unlimited natural resources, and majestic beauty of the western part of the continent. Forty years later their remarkable expedition became an important factor in our claim to the Oregon country (see p. 99).

Another important scientific event also took place during Jefferson's second administration. In the year 1807, almost three hundred years after Henry Hudson had discovered the river which bears his name, a strange craft appeared upon its waters. To be sure, it had masts for sails, as had every other ship in the world, but it also had a high iron smokestack, and protruding from its sides were two wooden paddle wheels. It was the *Claremont*—the world's first steamboat, or, as the incredulous people called it, "Robert Fulton's Folly."

A few years before this time an English inventor, James Watt, had succeeded in perfecting a stationary steam engine which would pump water from deep wells and turn heavy machinery in cotton mills. Robert Fulton, a young American, had conceived the idea of placing one of Watt's steam engines in a boat and gearing it so that it would turn a set of paddle wheels and thus cause the boat to move. He had tried to interest many men in the possibilities of his invention and had even gone to France to solicit the aid of Napoleon Bonaparte, but nowhere had he received encouragement. Finally, he had returned

to New York and there built his steamboat amidst the laughter and jeers of his fellow-countrymen.

On August 17, 1807, thousands of people gathered at the wharf, and Robert Fulton announced that he would drive the *Claremont* to Albany and back again to New York without using any sail. The crowd laughed and laughed, but Fulton and his assistants began to pile wood into the furnace of the boat. The high iron smokestack began to throw out smoke and sparks, and soon the hissing of steam could be heard escaping from the boiler.

"Helpless as a log," jeered the men on the bank.

Fulton now declared that he was ready. Presently the paddle wheels began to revolve. The "log" was no longer helpless.

"She moves! She moves!" shouted the astonished crowd as they began to run along the shore.

Sure enough, she did move. Out into the current she went, and then, as gracefully as any sailing boat, turned her prow toward up the river and kept right on moving, in the face of wind and tide, until she reached Albany thirty-two hours later.

Within a few years after Fulton's momentous voyage, steamboats were to be found ploughing the waters of the Ohio, the Mississippi, and the Great Lakes, helping to open up and settle the western parts of the broad United States.

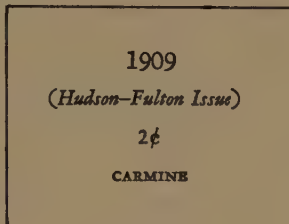


FIG. 50

FIG. 50. This postage stamp was issued in 1909 to commemorate the three-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River (1609) and the one-hundredth anniversary (approximately) of Fulton's famous voyage from New York to Albany by steam. Upon the stamp may be seen the *Half Moon*, Henry Hudson's tiny vessel, and Robert Fulton's steamboat, the *Claremont*. In the background are the majestic Palisades—the cliffs which mark the western shore of the river. An Indian in his birch-bark canoe is in the foreground. In 1909, as a feature of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration, duplicates of these famous vessels were constructed, and this stamp was engraved from a photograph of these reproductions.

5

When the Constitution of the United States was being drawn up by the Constitutional Convention, which met in Philadelphia, in 1787, one of the primary subjects which was met by compromise was the question of slavery.

As early as 1619 Negroes from the coast of Africa had been brought to America and sold as slaves to the Virginia colonists. The slave system gradually spread over the country, and by the opening of the Revolutionary War every one of the thirteen colonies held slaves. But these Negro slaves were mostly house servants and field hands and were only owned by the most wealthy people of the land. We must never forget the fact that the great plantation system of colonial days was built up by the labor of indentured and bonded white servants working off the price of their ship passage from the Old World to the New America.

Indeed, in 1787, the institution of slavery was considered by many to be an immoral and expensive system and the makers of the Constitution had decided that within twenty years after its adoption all importation of Negroes from Africa should stop. Therefore, one of the acts of the last year of Thomas Jefferson's administration was to sign the bill putting a stop to this African traffic.

This would have been very well had it not been for the invention of one man, for slavery was indeed a dying institution in the United States before 1793. In 1793, Eli Whitney, a young New England school teacher who had gone South for his health, watched the Negroes of a Georgia plantation laboriously picking the seeds from the cotton fiber. It took the worker one whole day to pick the seeds out of one pound of cotton.

Whitney began to contrive a machine to do this work. It was a strange little box of many fine comb-like teeth,

with rollers and a hand crank on the side. He called it the cotton "gin." Now by using this magical box a Negro in the course of one day could clean not one pound of cotton but three hundred pounds. Whitney's invention was one of the most fateful in history. The cotton crop increased from 2,000,000 pounds in 1791 to 40,000,000 pounds in 1801, and by 1821 the cotton crop had become the great crop of the South and its production had become so profitable that slave labor now became a necessity, and slavery was definitely fixed upon the South.

Now the planters of the cotton region no longer looked upon Negro slavery as an immoral force, rather, they considered it to be an economic necessity and great was the clamor and ill-feeling that greeted Jefferson's abolishment of the slave trade.

In 1809, Jefferson's administration came to a close and he was succeeded by his friend and fellow-Democrat, James Madison. Where Jefferson's administration had been blessed with peace and prosperity, Madison's was mainly taken up with war and anxiety.

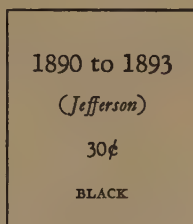


FIG. 51

Our second war with Great Britain began in 1812 and ended early in 1815. We declared war because England refused to stop taking our sailors out of our ships and forcing them into her service. This war has rightly been called "The Second War of Independence" for our naval victories made us independent on the sea and guaranteed our right to carry on commerce with any nation in the world. This war also proved our supremacy on the North

FIG. 51. This postage stamp was issued in 1891 to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's death (1826). The classic profile pictured on the stamp is adapted from the bust of Jefferson, by Houdon, which may be viewed in the Capitol at Washington. On this tombstone is the following epitaph written by himself: "Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and the father of the University of Virginia."

American continent and warned foreign nations that we jealously guarded our territory against greedy invaders. Other important results of this war were: due to the fact that our foreign commerce was cut off for a number of years many cotton and woolen mills were built and we became less dependent upon the textile mills of Great Britain for our clothes; also a protective tariff, with high duties, was enacted by the government to safeguard these mills and other American industries against foreign competition.

This was the second and the last war of the United States with her motherland. For over a hundred years these two great countries have enjoyed peace and friendship.

6

In 1817, James Monroe was elected to succeed James Madison as president. When the Revolution broke out President Monroe was a student at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Putting his books aside he went forth to do his part in the cause of liberty. Since that time he had always been an earnest worker for the welfare of his country. We have seen the important part he played in the purchase of Louisiana during Jefferson's administration (see p. 74) and he had been Madison's able Secretary of State during the unhappy years of that administration.

After the accession of President Monroe, an "era of good feeling" spread over the nation. All sections of the country united to build up the prosperity which had been shattered by the war and harmony prevailed between the different sections of the states.

During Monroe's first administration (1817 to 1821) the United States took her second step in national expansion. Thomas Jefferson, during his presidency, had offered

to buy the peninsula of Florida and the territory on the Gulf of Mexico as far west as the Mississippi River which was known as West Florida. His effort had been unsuccessful, but since his time the government of Spain, to whom this territory belonged, had changed hands.

Florida at this time was a vast wilderness defended by only a few weak Spanish posts. Its swamps were the retreats of the Seminole Indians and the hiding places of runaway Negroes from the United States, who often crossed the border and raided the settlements of southern Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Spain had promised in a treaty of 1795 (the Pinckney Treaty) to prevent such marauding bands from crossing our border, but she had never been able to fulfill this promise.

In 1818, General Andrew Jackson, a hero of the War of 1812, who was in command of our southern army, undertook to put an end to this border raiding. Following a band of Indians he crossed into West Florida and attacked the Spanish forts of St. Marks and Pensacola, under the excuse that the Indians had taken refuge in them, and within three months time he had subdued the whole province and raised the American flag above its forts.

1922 to 1926

(Monroe)

10¢

ORANGE

FIG. 52

1902 to 1903

(Jackson)

3¢

BRIGHT VIOLET

FIG. 53

FIG. 52. This stamp was issued on Jan. 15, 1923. James Monroe was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on Apr. 28, 1758, and died July 4, 1831. This stamp was included in the 1922 to 1926 series at approximately the one-hundredth anniversary of the pronouncement of the "Monroe Doctrine."

FIG. 53. This postage stamp was issued in 1902 and bears the portrait of Andrew Jackson. The dates of his birth (1767) and death (1845) are given together with his name beneath the portrait. The picture is framed by a border in which the figures of two chariot drivers may be seen, symbolizing the tremendous energy and undaunted courage of Andrew Jackson.

It was a daring move and was done without the consent of the government, but President Monroe was eager to seize every opportunity and once more offered to buy Florida. The Spanish government wisely decided to sell the territory and the treaty of purchase was ratified by Congress in 1819. It provided that we should pay claims against Spain amounting to not more than \$5,000,000, and take all Florida—about 60,000 square miles—as our possession.

It was also during Monroe's first administration that the question of slavery came to be a national issue. By 1820 there were eleven slave-owning states and eleven free states in the Union, and Missouri, which had become occupied by slave-owning planters, had applied for the rights of statehood. While Congress was considering this state bill, an amendment was introduced into the House of Representatives demanding that slavery be prohibited in the Missouri Territory and that the slaves be gradually emancipated. After a short and angry debate, the amendment was passed in the House, but lost in the Senate.

Congress adjourned for the summer before any decision concerning Missouri's statehood was reached, and great was the consternation of the country over the issue. Thomas Jefferson, then an old man, wrote: "This momentous question, like a firebell in the night, awakened me and filled me with horror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union."

To the men of the North it seemed that the Southerners by extending their slave system to Missouri would lay the foundation for a slave-owning nation in the great region west of it, which would come to dominate the government of the whole people. Beside this feeling, there was in the North a growing conviction that slavery was a blot on our civilization and ought to be restricted in area. To the men of the South slavery had become an economic neces-

sity, and they were also eager to perpetuate Southern control in order to protect themselves from unfavorable legislation detrimental to their agricultural interests. Leaders soon began to see that only a compromise could ward off a general disarrangement of existing party alignments.

The ablest and most eloquent advocate of compromise was Henry Clay, who represented the State of Kentucky, and was the Speaker of the House of Representatives. He was a man of sound and capable statesmanship who constantly sought to preserve the Union in peaceful and harmonious relationship. Under his leadership the Missouri Compromise was realized and the jarring factions were brought together in agreement. The North agreed that Missouri should enter the Union as a slave state, while the South agreed that in all future cases the states formed out of the remainder of the Missouri Territory north of the parallel 36' 30" should come into the Union as free states. Maine came into the Union as a free state (1820) and Missouri as a slave state (1821), thus the political balance was kept even, for the North now had twelve free states and the South twelve slave states. The question of the expansion of slavery was settled—some thought forever.

It was also during Monroe's first administration that the *Savannah* succeeded in crossing the Atlantic Ocean propelled for a part of the way by steam. People said that it could not be done because the boat could never carry

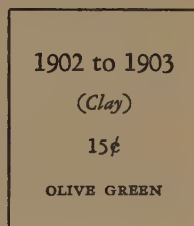


FIG. 54

FIG. 54. The inclusion of Henry Clay's portrait in this series coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of his death. Henry Clay was born in Virginia in 1777 and died at Washington in 1852. He studied law, and in 1797 removed to Lexington, Ky. He entered Congress in 1806, and continued in public life from that time until his death. He was a man of remarkable personal influence, a "peacemaker" by temperament, and the greatest orator the Southwest ever possessed.

enough fuel, even as they had said, twelve years before, that Robert Fulton's *Claremont* would never move from its dock. But the *Savannah* and many other boats soon proved

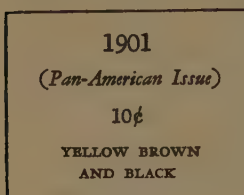


FIG. 55

them to be wrong. By 1838, boats were crossing the ocean entirely by steam power, and two years later the Cunard Line began to operate the first of its great fleet of steam packets between New York and Liverpool. The age of miracles was dawning.

So great had been the success of President Monroe's term in office, that when the election of 1820 came before the country he was re-elected by an almost unanimous vote—one elector purposely voted against him so that the distinction of a unanimous election might be claimed only for George Washington. And, indeed, Monroe governed wisely. A national wagon road had been constructed from West Virginia upon which emigrants were pushing westward into Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, where good land was plentiful and cheap; manufacturing was developing fast in the North, and the cultivation of cotton was making the South wealthy. Sturdy immigrants from Europe were swelling our population, and we were fast becoming a self-supporting nation.

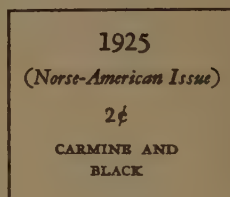


FIG. 56

FIG. 55. This is one of the series of postage stamps issued at the time of the Pan-American Exposition which was held at Buffalo in 1901. It pictures a fast ocean steamship of that day.

FIG. 56. Kleug Peerson, a hardy Norwegian, visited our country in 1821, and upon his return, so fired with enthusiasm the hearts of fifty-two followers eager for adventure that on July 4, 1825, organized by Lars Larsen, they set sail in the small ship *Restaurationen* commanded by Captain Lars Olsen. They landed in New York on Oct. 10, and soon after settled in Orleans County, N. Y. To commemorate the coming of these first Norsemen, whose descendants and whose followers have been a valuable addition to our body politic, two stamps were issued on May 18, 1925 (see p. 5, Fig. 1).

Since 1810, the Spanish colonies in Central and South America had been in revolt. Spain had been weakened by France and, following the example set by the American Revolution, they had established themselves as independent republics. The Tsar of Russia then held Russian America (now Alaska) and was endeavoring to get possession of more territory on the Pacific Coast. He, with other European kings, formed an alliance to force the new American nations to return to the keeping of despotic Spain from whom they had just freed themselves.

Now President Monroe decided that the time had come when the United States must take a definite stand and maintain her leadership as the guardian of New World liberty as in opposition to Old World despotism and greed. Therefore, in 1823, in his message to Congress, he declared that the United States would deny the right of any European power to plant any *new* colonies on the American continent, promising that we as a nation would not meddle with the affairs of the nations of the Old World and that we were equally determined that they should not in any way interfere with the affairs of the New World.

This famous declaration, which is known to history as the "Monroe Doctrine," never became an Act of Congress, but it so ably voiced the feeling of the whole nation that it was respected by foreign powers then and today. It meant that henceforth America was for Americans and that the United States would stand by the rights of the different nations on both the American continents, North and South, to manage their own affairs in their own way, without interference from Europe.

7

Up until 1825, Philadelphia had been the largest and most important city in the United States, but in that year

an event took place which was to shift the commercial and shipping center of the country from Pennsylvania to New York.

In 1825, the year in which John Quincy Adams became president, the Erie Canal was opened for transportation between Buffalo, on Lake Erie, and Albany, on the Hudson River. For eight years, hundreds of workmen had been busy digging and blasting a canal through the wilderness

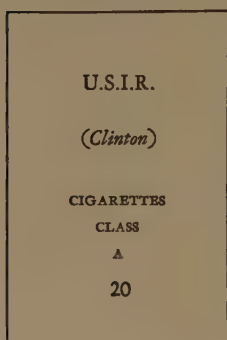


FIG. 57

of the Mohawk Valley. This tremendous engineering feat had received the encouragement of the farseeing governor of New York State, Dewitt Clinton, and was called by the skeptical people, of whom there are always many, "Clinton's Big Ditch" and "Clinton's Folly."

"And will you make water run up the hills?" enquired the skeptics.

"We will do better," replied Governor Clinton, "We will build locks and *make* the water lift the boats over the hills." And up and up, six hundred feet above the level of the rivers went the canal.

Finally, the great work was completed, and the water from Lake Erie flooded the three hundred miles of the "ditch." On October 26, 1825, the celebration of the opening began at Buffalo, and a fleet of canal boats bearing Governor Clinton and his guests started eastward, drawn

FIG. 57. This is not a postage stamp, but a United States Internal Revenue stamp and is to be found on every package of cigarettes sold in the country. (Be sure to cancel the stamp after removing it from the package.) Dewitt Clinton is pictured upon this stamp. He was born Mar. 2, 1769, in Orange County, N. Y. In 1786, he graduated from Columbia College, and in 1790 was admitted to the bar. In 1802, he became a member of the United States Senate but resigned in the following year to become mayor of New York City. In 1812, he was nominated by the Federalists for the presidency, but was defeated by James Madison. Between 1817 and 1823, and 1825 to 1828, he was governor of New York state. He died at Albany, N. Y., Feb. 11, 1828.

by gray-white horses. As the fleet moved slowly along the canal, cheered by the crowds on the bank, the news of their start was carried to New York City by the reports of a continuous line of cannon placed every five miles along the canal to Albany and down the Hudson to New York. The progress of the little fleet was one of continuous ovation. Town after town along the route vied with each other in expressing its delight. From Albany to New York the boats were escorted by gayly decorated steamboats, and on reaching New York Harbor, Governor Clinton solemnly poured a keg of water, which he had brought from Lake Erie, into the salt water of the bay, thus symbolizing the opening of western transportation by the mingling of the waters.

The success of the canal was immediate. The country around the Great Lakes was fast being settled by farmers and cattle raisers and now their products of grain and meat could be shipped across the waters of this great inland chain of seas, on sailing vessels and steamships, to the thriving city of Buffalo.

Buffalo, the most eastern city on Lake Erie, was at the fall line of the water not very far from the falls of Niagara where the water from the four lakes plunges with majestic splendor into the canyon beneath and begins its rush toward Lake Ontario. Buffalo now became a flourishing city of storehouses and wharves to which the products of the West were brought for re-shipment through the canal, to the markets of the East. Along the banks of the canal, which had been built through a wilderness, there now arose scores of prosperous towns and rapidly growing

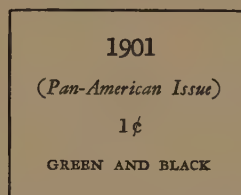


FIG. 58

FIG. 58. This postage stamp, which was issued in 1901 at the time of the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, pictures one of the fast steamboats which ply the waters of the Great Lakes. These vessels have great freight capacity and can float in very shallow water. They pass through canals from one lake to another.

cities. Passenger boats were run and thousands of emigrants pushed their way westward along this route. New York City gained immensely by this trade with the West and soon became the chief port of the Atlantic. Where it had

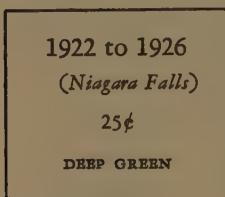


FIG. 59

once cost \$100 a ton for wagon transportation between New York and Buffalo, the freight rates were now reduced to \$14 a ton and the trip was made in one-third of the time. Canal building now became a country-wide enterprise and within the next twenty years scores of canals were built in the different States.

It was also during President Adams' administration that the "steam horse" made its first appearance in America. So great had been the success of the canals that the business men of the cities which were not near natural waterways began to look frantically for a means of transportation to bring the trade of the West to their doors.

The stationary steam engine which had been perfected by James Watt (see p. 76) was now put upon wheels and made to propel itself along a track. Inventors argued that the railroad would not freeze in the winter time as did the canals, and that iron rails could be laid much cheaper than highways could be constructed, but even so they found that their plans were not taken up with instant enthusiasm.

"But what will you do when you come to a curve? The engine will surely jump off the track."

Such a question seems increditable to us now, but John Stevens had to build a circular track at Hoboken, New Jersey, and drive his little engine around it, before the people would be convinced.

FIG. 59. This postage stamp was issued Nov. 11, 1922. Upon it is pictured a view of Niagara Falls as seen from Goat Island, the tiny island between the American and the Canadian falls. The picture upon the stamp is a view of the American side. These falls are 167 feet high and over 4,000 feet wide. They are now used to generate electricity which turns machinery and illuminates cities for many miles around.

"Ah! well and good!" they exclaimed, "But what will you do when you come to the mountains? You surely can't go over them."

Even this question was not a stumbling block.

"Why, if we can't go around them we will dig tunnels and go right through them." And they took pains to explain that by a tunnel they meant "a passage like a well dug horizontally through the hill or mountain."

In 1828, the first railroad was built in America. It began at Baltimore and ran westward fourteen miles to Endicott's Mills. For two years the cars of this railroad were pulled by horses, and it was not until 1830 that Peter Cooper's steam locomotive, "Tom Thumb," was placed into use. This tiny engine surprised the countryside by pulling one car the entire length of the railroad at the terrific speed of fifteen miles an hour. This record even beat the time of the railroad company's most spirited horse.

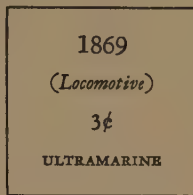


FIG. 60

The following year the "Dewitt Clinton" which is now a permanent exhibit at the Grand Central Terminal in New York City, made its celebrated run along the bank of the Hudson River. Within ten years the 14 miles of track in Maryland had multiplied to almost 3,000 miles in various states. A traveler could then go from Boston to Rochester by rail, but he had to change cars about ten times. In 1850, the railways had increased to nearly 9,000 miles, and before the outbreak of the war between the states more than 20,000 more miles had been added. By this time the railroad had come to supercede the canal as a route to and from the great West.

FIG. 60. The locomotive pictured upon this stamp is not one of these early engines, but is of the type that were in use during the period of the Civil War. Notice the huge smoke funnel which the engineers of that time thought necessary to keep the sparks and hot cinders from setting fire to the cars and forests.

8

Up until the year 1829, every president of the United States had come either from Virginia or Massachusetts, and all had been scholarly gentlemen and men of diplomatic training. But in this year a new type of American won the favor of the people and was elected to the highest position that the nation could offer.

This new president, Andrew Jackson, was born in a log cabin in South Carolina and had been forced to go to work to earn a living when other boys of his age were in school. As a mere boy he had run away from his home and joined the Revolutionary army, only to be taken prisoner by the British and starved in a southern prison camp. All his life he bore the scar of a saber cut upon his face, received from a vicious officer for whom he refused to slave.

Through sheer determination he became a lawyer in Tennessee and a major-general in the militia of the state. No one could shoot a rifle or break a wild horse better than he could. With a sudden swoop his men crushed the strength of the Creek Indians in Alabama and Georgia, and he was rewarded by being made a major-general in the United States army in charge of the Southwest. We have already seen his victorious conquest of the Floridas (see p. 81) and after his memorial defense of New Orleans during the War of 1812, in which he lost only 52 men as over against the enemy's 2,000, he became the outstanding hero of the common people.

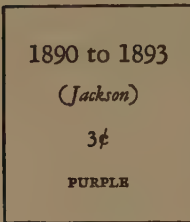


FIG. 61

FIG. 61. This postage stamp was issued in 1890, almost 125 years after Andrew Jackson's birth (1767). The likeness of Jackson upon the stamp is engraved from a sculptured bust which may be seen in the Capitol at Washington.

He was a man of amazing directness and absolute honesty; he never attempted to avoid a quarrel if he was sure he was in the right, and he never acknowledged defeat. He was also a man of unflinching courage and great kindness; loved by his followers, with whom he shared all the privations and hardships of the wilderness, he came to be known by the affectionate nickname of "Old Hickory."

Never before had so great an interest in the choice of a President been shown by the people. "Hickory Clubs" were formed in Philadelphia and each member wore a black silk vest which was stamped with Jackson's portrait. In the South the candidates were summed up by one newspaper with the rhyme:

John Quincy Adams
Who can write,
And Andrew Jackson
Who can fight.

Jackson took possession of his great office with characteristic energy. One of his first acts was to turn about two-thousand government employees and officials out of their positions and give their places and salaries to his friends and supporters who had helped secure his election. This wholesale turnover of public offices came to be known as the "spoils system," and it worked great hardships upon the efficiency of the government and upon future presidents.

The question of the filling of offices was soon pushed out of sight, however, by the greater question of slavery. In the North, a young prophet of emancipation, William

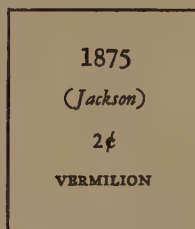


FIG. 62

FIG. 62. This stamp reproduces the same likeness of Jackson as appears upon the preceding stamp. It is of the regular issue of 1875.

Lloyd Garrison, had arisen crying through the pages of his newspaper, the *Liberator*, "Abolish slavery—free the Negro slave—even at the price of destroying the Union!" His influence spread, and within the next few years nearly two thousand societies had been formed in the North for the abolition of slavery. Thousands of people now began to petition Congress to free the slaves in the nation's Capital, the District of Columbia, and John Quincy Adams, then a member of the House of Representatives, insisted upon reading every petition that was sent to him, sometimes more than two hundred in a single day. From this time the discussion of slavery never stopped until the issue was settled on the battlefield.

The most important event of Jackson's first administration, however, was the renewal of the old dispute of "state rights," which had caused such careful planning and compromise during the making of the Constitution (see p. 66). South Carolina, as well as the rest of the South had become an agricultural country, while the northern States had advanced in manufacturing interests. Henry Clay was particularly anxious to make the American producers and manufacturers independent of Europe, and he had succeeded in establishing high protective tariffs (1824, 1828, 1832). These tariffs were planned to protect the manufacturer against all foreign competitors by levying a heavy tax on goods brought into the country. This tax irked the South, which manufactured very little and imported most of its necessary goods from abroad.

Under the leadership of Vice-president John C. Calhoun and Governor Robert Y. Hayne, South Carolina objected to this tariff and threatened to withdraw from the Union. This inspired Daniel Webster's celebrated speech in which he declared the United States to be an eternally indissoluble nation, closing with the well-known words: "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable." His

words were hailed everywhere with a joyous and intense fervor of patriotism. Nevertheless, South Carolina proceeded to declare the tariff acts "null, void, and no law" within her border, adding that if attempts were made to force them upon her, she would secede from the Union.

Another President than Jackson might have hesitated. When he heard of this first attempt upon the life of the nation he exclaimed, "By the Eternal!—The Union must and *shall* be preserved! Where is Scott?" And while appealing to his fellow-citizens of South Carolina, his "native state," to obey the law peacefully, he also dispatched armed forces under General Scott with orders to fight if necessary. Once more Henry Clay came

forward with a compromise (see p. 83), consenting to a slow reduction of the tariff; and the crisis was averted, but thereafter the threat of secession became a powerful weapon in the hands of the states.

Jackson's presidency was a period of rapid growth for the entire country, but especially for the West. Appropriations were made and roads were built in the territories, canals were constructed and the railroad made its appearance west of the Alleghenies. The Indians who inhabited

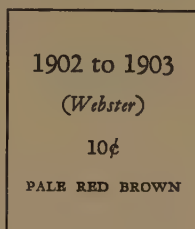


FIG. 63

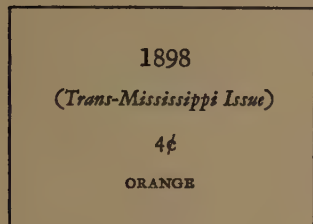


FIG. 64

FIG. 63. This postage stamp was issued in 1902 and commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the death of this great statesman. The portrait of Daniel Webster is here framed by two fasces, which are the Roman emblems of legal authority, and the dates of his birth and death appear upon a scroll beneath the portrait (1782 and 1852). His defense of the Union in his second reply to Hayne, Jan. 26 and 27, 1830, has been called "the most remarkable speech ever made in the American Congress."

FIG. 64. This postage stamp is one of the series which was issued at the time of the St. Louis Exposition, which celebrated the growth of the West. It is a reproduction of an engraving in Schoolcraft's *History of the Indian Tribes* and pictures an Indian on horseback hunting the buffalo on the great level prairie.

the territories of Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin, were forced to sell their lands and move on across the Mississippi River into specified tracts which the government promised to stock with cattle and other needful things. In the South the Seminole Indians vainly defended their land for nearly seven years but were finally conquered by Colonel Zachary

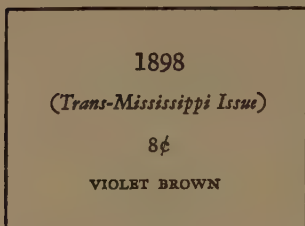


FIG. 65

Taylor and sent west of the Mississippi River. Thus the remnants of a former free people commenced their involuntary migration toward the Pacific. In 1833, Chicago, on the southwestern shore of Lake Michigan, was a bustling town of between five and six hundred

inhabitants. Foreign immigrants, and native-born citizens from the eastern States, streamed into the fertile lands of the North-west, and Arkansas (1836) and the rapidly growing territory of Michigan (1837) were admitted to the Union, making twenty-six states in all.

9

When Andrew Jackson retired from office in 1837, he was succeeded by his friend and Vice-president, Martin Van Buren. No American President has ever had more success in attaining his ends than Jackson. He had won all of his battles, rewarded all his friends, punished all his enemies, and chosen a successor who would continue the policies that he had begun.

No sooner had Van Buren entered upon the duties of his office than a panic in trade and money matters swept

FIG. 65. This stamp, issued at the same time as the preceeding one, represents a detachment of United States soldiers convoying an emigrant train of covered wagons across the prairies and guarding them from Indian attack. It is a reproduction of a drawing by Frederick Remington.

over the country, due to Jackson's tampering with the United States Bank. Large business houses went into bankruptcy, banks failed, factories and mills stopped running and nearly all trade came to a standstill.

Up until this time the national government had never taken entire charge of its own money, but let one or more of the private banks have the care of it. Now it learned a lesson, and the most important measure of President Van Buren's administration was an act requiring public money to be kept not in banks but in the treasury at Washington, or in subtreasuries in other cities, and also requiring banks to secure their operations by depositing funds with the government. This subtreasury bill was a very unpopular measure, and it defeated the President's re-election; but experience has proved its wisdom.

President Van Buren was succeeded, in 1841, by General William Henry Harrison, another hero of the war of 1812, by this time an old man, living quietly on his farm in the Northwest. Harrison was a popular soldier rather than a great statesman, and the emotional voters saw only the picturesque of his frontier life and warfare. They revived the memory of his victory over the Indians at Tippecanoe; they pictured the simple log cabin in which he was supposed to dwell; they sang jolly campaign songs, drank much hard cider, the beverage of the frontier, and whirled their hero into the presidential chair.

The triumph, the confusion, and the hard work of the campaign and of the great position proved too much for the aged general. The "spoils system" (see p. 91) sur-

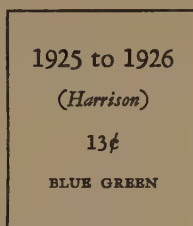


FIG. 66

FIG. 66. This postage stamp is of the same type as the general 1922 to 1926 issue. It reproduced an engraving of General Harrison's portrait and was issued at approximately the one-hundred-and-fifteenth anniversary of his victory over the Indians at Tippecanoe (1811) and the eighty-fifth anniversary of his death (1841).

rounded him with thousands of clamorous office seekers, to whom he gave his whole time and all too literally his life. He sickened and died within a month after his inauguration, and was succeeded by his Vice-president, John Tyler.

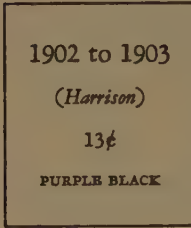


FIG. 67

In 1842, Daniel Webster, representing the United States, and Lord Ashburton, representing Great Britain, settled the boundary dispute between Maine and Canada, by an agreement known as the Webster-Ashburton Treaty. The dispute in regard to the true line between the two countries had been very bitter, and the friendly settlement of the controversy was hailed as a great piece of international diplomacy. The northeastern boundary line was fixed as it has since remained and the northwestern boundary was located between the Lake of the Woods, in Minnesota, and the Rocky Mountains at the forty-ninth parallel; the parallel which marks the present boundary between the United States and Canada.

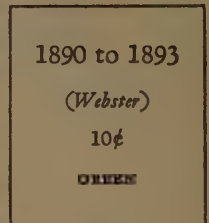


FIG. 68

It was also in 1844 that Colonel John C. Frémont was sent out by the government with a band of army engineers to explore the Rocky Mountains and discover a better

FIG. 67. This postage stamp reproduces the portrait of President Harrison and gives the dates of his birth (1773) and death (1841). Harrison was born in Virginia, and his father, Benjamin Harrison, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. From 1801 to 1813 he was governor of what was then the territory of Indiana. In 1811, he defeated the Indians in a great battle at Tippecanoe, Ind., and during the War of 1812 he was appointed a major-general in the regular army. Later, he returned to his farm at North Bend, on the Ohio, near Cincinnati.

FIG. 68. This postage stamp reproduces a portrait of Daniel Webster, unquestionably the greatest orator this country has produced and a statesman of first rank. Webster was born at Salisbury, N. H., in 1782, and died at his home at Marshfield, near Boston, in 1852. He graduated at Dartmouth College, and began the practice of law in 1805. In 1812 he was elected to Congress, and from that time until his death he was constantly in public life.

route to the Pacific Ocean than the torturous Oregon trail of Lewis and Clark (see p. 75). Frémont's route took him toward the Southwest through the territory of what is now the states of Colorado, Utah, northern Arizona, and southern Nevada. Here he scaled the high peaks of the Rockies, discovered the "Southern Pass" and finally came to the Pacific Coast at a point near the present city of Los Angeles. His accomplishment added greatly to the knowledge of the Southwest, and he was hailed as the "Pathfinder" of the route to California.

Mexico was at this time a republic, of which Santa Ana was President. The part of Mexico north of the Rio Grande, known as Texas, had been settled largely by people from the United States, and, in 1835, the Texans on account of various grievances refused allegiance to Santa Ana's authority and set up an independent Republic with Samuel Houston as President. The population of Texas at this time was about

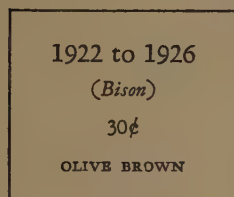


FIG. 70

35,000, of which over two-thirds were Americans. It was a vast and fertile prairie land of many different aspects, verging from the level of the sea to the towering Rockies, and from rich agricultural soils to arid desert wastes.

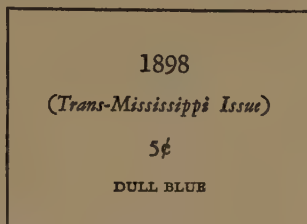


FIG. 69

FIG. 69. This postage stamp, issued in 1898 at the time of the St. Louis Exposition, represents Colonel Frémont, "The Pathfinder," planting the United States flag on the highest peak of the Rocky Mountains.

FIG. 70. This postage stamp was issued on Mar. 20, 1923. It pictures the American bison, or buffalo, in its native element, the prairie. The bison once roamed the great central plain in herds of many thousands. We have very early records of them being hunted by the Spanish explorers and until recent years they have been an important factor in the economic life of the West. Now the herds of bison which remain are protected upon government reservations.

Santa Ana invaded the territory with an army of 1,200 men, and was met by a Texan force of about 750 volunteers under the command of General Houston. After a savage struggle the Mexicans were routed, and among the prisoners was Santa Ana, who purchased his liberty by acknowledging the independence of Texas. After ten years of independence, this state asked to be admitted to the Union. This created the great party issue for the next presidential campaign.

But before this presidential issue was to be settled another important event took place. In 1844, Samuel Morse perfected the electric telegraph, and the first telegraph line in the world was constructed between Washington and Baltimore at the expense of the government. On the

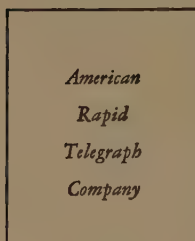


FIG. 71

morning of May 24, 1844, all was in readiness and Professor Morse stood before the telegraph instrument which was placed in the Supreme Court Room in the Capitol. In less than a minute of time his message had traveled to Baltimore and back again, a circuit of eighty miles. A new era had dawned upon humanity. Distance had been annihilated—a new and invisible force, electricity, had become the messenger of mankind.

The first words to be sent across these miles of wire were "What hath God wrought!" but the first public message to be sent was the news of James K. Polk's nomination for President. In the election which followed, the question of the admission of Texas was decided by the triumph of James K. Polk over Henry Clay, and it was admitted as a state, December 1844, before his inauguration.

FIG. 71. This is not a United States government postage stamp, but a stamp issued by a private company, the American Rapid Telegraph Company, for the collection of its tolls. This commercial stamp is introduced here to call attention to the historical significance of Professor Morse's sensational invention. Telegraph services, except in war times have always been private enterprises in the United States.

The last act of President Tyler was the signing of a bill admitting two more states, Florida and Iowa (1845) to the Union.

The years of President Polk's administration (1845 to 1849) were taken up chiefly with the events of the Mexican War. In 1846, the territory of Oregon was secured to the nation by a treaty with Great Britain, and the northern boundary was formed by extending the northwestern border line of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty (see p. 96) along the forty-ninth parallel to the Pacific. Our land now stretched from ocean to ocean, and out of this vast new territory were to be formed the future states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Wyoming and Montana.

South of Oregon were the territories of California and New Mexico, then parts of Mexico. As early as 1579, Sir Francis Drake had sought the shelter of California's excellent harbors on his voyage around the globe, and in 1697 the southern part had been sparsely settled by Jesuit missionaries, the remains of whose missions are still preserved. In 1769, San Francisco Bay was discovered by Franciscan monks who were migrating from Mexico in search of a location for their monastery. Very little attention had been paid to this beautiful country by the Europeans or Americans until the Russian Tsar began to plant settlements there, between 1775 and 1812, and President Monroe issued his famous doctrine (see p. 85).

California, in 1845, was a vast area of sunny land, the home of the grape and of great herds of cattle. It was sparsely settled by Mexicans, and a few American emi-

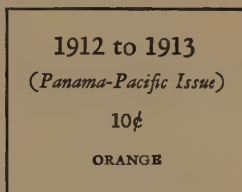


FIG. 72

FIG. 72. This postage stamp pictures the discovery of San Francisco Bay by the Franciscan Fathers in 1769. It was issued at the time of the Panama-Pacific Exposition which was held at San Francisco to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal and the union of the Atlantic and Pacific.

grants had already roamed across its borders and established their homes. The fever for annexation burned in the veins of all Americans who went there, and the extension of southern territory appealed strongly to most of the slave-owning states, for under the Missouri Compromise (see p. 83) room for the expansion of slavery could not be found in the existing territory of the United States, now that Florida had been bought and Texas annexed. But if Mexico could be forced into ceding California, another great area would be open to slave owners.

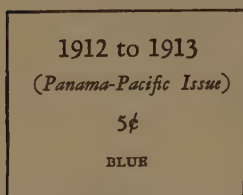


FIG. 73

There were plenty of pretexts for a quarrel with Mexico. The most convenient of these was the disputed boundary of Texas. The state claimed the line of the Rio Grande; the Mexicans only admitted the line of the Nueces River, about one hundred miles east of the Rio Grande.

President Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to seize the disputed district. He did this, and so goaded the Mexican troops to attack him. This attack gave the President the opportunity for which he was waiting—to declare war on Mexico and lay the blame at her door.

In less than two years Santa Ana's forces had been defeated, Vera Cruz, the chief seaport, and Mexico City, the capital, had fallen into the hands of the American troops, the territory of New Mexico had been seized, and an American fleet, with the help of Colonel Frémont, had conquered California. Thus a war that began as a boundary dispute became a war of conquest.

FIG. 73. This postage stamp is of the same series as the preceding one. It reproduces a photograph of the Golden Gate, the entrance to San Francisco Bay. In the evening as the sun sets in the waters of the Pacific Ocean it sends its parting rays across the water like a path of gold, and viewed from the city this narrow gateway to the splendid harbor appears to be bathed in golden light. The setting sun's rays appear upon the stamp.

By a treaty of peace (1848) we obtained the territory of California and New Mexico, with the undisputed possession of Texas—in all, nearly 1,000,000 square miles. For this the United States agreed to pay \$15,000,000 and to assume the debts due to American citizens by the Mexican government—a matter of about \$3,000,000 more. Thus, in less than one administration, the United States had acquired as much territory west of the Mississippi as it before possessed east of it. The United States had now almost attained its full territorial growth.

In January, of this same year, gold was discovered in California. Some workmen building a new mill on the American River had noticed yellow particles on the bottom of the mill race and had collected

several ounces of the precious metal. Further investigation showed that gold was to be found throughout the whole length of the river.

Within a few weeks the news of the discovery had spread throughout California and all able-bodied men were rushing to the gold fields. In San Francisco, the streets were lined with closed shops, the newspapers in the town were forced to stop publication, and even the vessels anchored in the harbor were unable to sail away, their crews having deserted to join in the race for gold.

Late in the autumn the news reached the East, where it spread like wild fire. A "gold fever" seized upon the people, and a great rush of emigration, both by land and sea, began for California. Companies were formed and

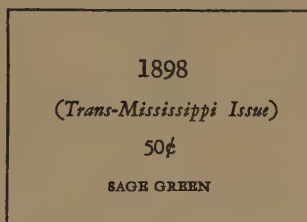


FIG. 74

FIG. 74. This postage stamp, which was issued at the time of the St. Louis Exposition, pictures a western mining prospector panning for gold in one of the rivers. It is reproduced from a painting by Frederick Remington. This stamp is the only one introduced into this book which cannot be secured for less than one dollar.

ships were hastily bought. Private individuals were glad to have the opportunity to pay \$1,000 for passage on any vessel bound for San Francisco. By the end of the year

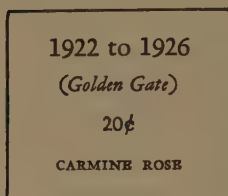


FIG. 75

every important Atlantic seaport had sent out its fleet of adventurers to seek for fortunes amongst the glittering sands of California. Their passage took many months for they had either to sail around South America or struggle through the

deadly swamps of Panama to the Pacific Coast and there take ship again for San Francisco. Hundreds of ships passed through the Golden Gate in 1849, bringing their passengers to the gold fields.

The spring of 1849 also saw the frontier crowded with emigrant wagons. Thousands from the East had chosen to make their way across the continent by land. Only a few years before, such a trip, when made by Frémont or Lewis and Clark, had been considered a tremendous undertaking. It has been estimated that over 20,000 persons, with their cattle and household goods, now ventured this hazardous journey in the quest for gold. Westward they pushed, along the trail of the "Pathfinder" (see p. 97) into the wilderness which was the Indian's last hunting ground. Soon the trail was well blazed with the

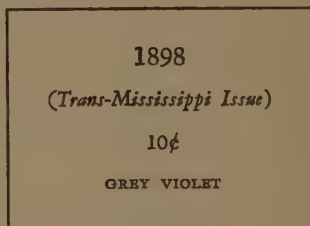


FIG. 76

FIG. 75. This postage stamp was issued on May 1, 1923. It reproduces a photograph of an oil painting of the Golden Gate by W. A. Coulter, a marine painter of Sansalito, Calif.

FIG. 76. This postage stamp is a reproduction in miniature of the painting by A. G. Heaton. It pictures one of the many hardships of the emigrants who chose to cross the prairies and mountains. Upon the desolate prairie, hundreds of miles away from help, one of the pioneers' horses has sickened and died. The heavy extra load might soon kill the other one and thus leave the father and his family stranded—the prey of wild beasts and Indians.

skeletons of horses and oxen, and here and there a leveled grave served as a guide and warning to whoever dared to brave the deserts and the redmen.

People from every clime poured into California, all intent on sudden fortune. Sleepy Spanish towns became cities. San Francisco suddenly sprang from a quiet seaport into a city of 20,000 inhabitants. By 1850, California had a population of almost 100,000, and in the course of the next seven years (1849 to 1856) gold valued at over \$400,000,000 was taken from its hills and rivers.

10

In 1849, General Zachary Taylor became a candidate for the presidency. He had won undying fame in the battle of Buena Vista, where he had vanquished the enemy against tremendous odds, during the Mexican War. He was, like Jackson, a man of rugged and admirable personal qualities, and, like Harrison, he was carried by a great wave of popularity into the high office.

When General Taylor became President, the North and South were already engaged in fierce dispute in regard to the territory gained through the Mexican War. Congress was now called upon to determine whether California and New Mexico should be permitted to hold slaves. In reality this new territory was below the line of the Missouri Compromise (see p. 83) and, should they come into the Union as slave states, their influence would

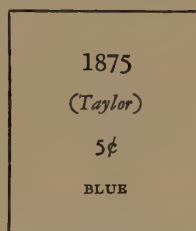


FIG. 77

FIG. 77. This postage stamp was issued during the twenty-fifth anniversary of General Taylor's death. He was born in Virginia in 1784 and died at Washington, July 9, 1850. When he was very young his father moved to Louisville, Ky. In 1808, he entered the regular army and served throughout the war with Mexico, gaining great distinction for his achievements. In 1840, he bought a plantation and settled at Baton Rouge, La.

give the balance of power to the politicians of the South. This the abolitionists of the North could not abide, and the discussion roused angry passions in both the North and the South.

In 1850, California, which had so suddenly become settled by emigrants, mostly from the northern states, applied for admission to the Union as a free state. This petition was like a blow in the face to the South. Smoldering fires leaped into flame. There was talk of disunion—men thought of forming a Northern and a Southern Republic; never before had the political situation been so critical. And to make matters worse, individuals and societies in the North had taken to protecting runaway slaves, and refused to return them to their owners or help in their recapture. The bitterness caused by this practice grew very rapidly into hatred, and hatred was fast paving the way for rebellion.

Once again, Henry Clay, the "master of compromise," by this time an old man, came forward in Congress with a plan of settlement. Three vital points he proposed: First, that California should be admitted to the Union as a free state, this in favor of Northern views; second, that the people who settled the territories of the United States should choose for themselves how they would stand on the question of slavery, a pure sporting proposition for both sides of the question; third, that a new Fugitive-Slave Law be enacted which would guarantee the arrest of runaway slaves in the North and their return to their masters, a great concession to the South.

During the wild debates on this Fugitive-Slave Law, President Taylor died (July 9, 1850), and was succeeded by Vice-president Millard Fillmore. In the autumn of 1850, the Compromise became a law, and it was again hoped that peace had been secured and the Union preserved. But farseeing men began to have even graver fears

for the future of the nation. The North would not abide by the Fugitive-Slave Law. Instead, a new spirit of resistance began to show itself. An elaborate system of smuggling slaves from the South into Canada, known as "the underground railway," was devised; agents of secret societies entered the South to encite the Negroes to flee from their masters; many honest people who had never before disobeyed any law of Congress now refused to send back the fugitive slaves. It was the beginning of the end, the forces of slavery and the forces of abolition were grimly setting the stage for the great final act. A great national crisis had about been reached.

During the administration of President Franklin Pierce (1853 to 1857), a great period of prosperity came upon the nation. Business prospered and everyone seemed to be making money. Mail and express service was extended by pony express all the way to California, the valiant postriders risking the perils of the desert and mountains and the danger of Indian attacks in their venturesome rides through the country's wildernesses. There were also plans afoot to build a railroad to the Pacific and explorations were made to discover a route.

New inventions also began to appear which were destined to multiply the work that a man could do as well as shorten his hours of labor. There now appeared the sewing machine, the reaping and mowing machines, improved steam printing presses and typesetting machinery which made it possible to print newspapers faster and at a cheaper price so that all might read. It was also at this

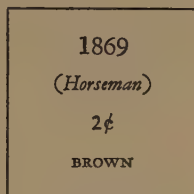


FIG. 78

FIG. 78. This postage stamp pictures a postrider upon his horse riding at full gallop. These riders carried mail, small packages of valuables, and often bags of gold. They rode in relays, each rider carrying the mail for from twenty-five to fifty miles. Thus the service was carried across the prairies and the mountains from the Mississippi to the Pacific.

time that the first ocean cable was laid, and telegraph communication was made possible between the Old World and the New. Railroads were built with renewed energy,

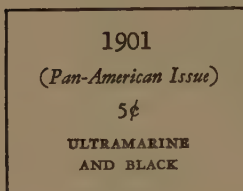


FIG. 79

and among the great engineering feats of the time was the construction of a suspension bridge over the gorge of the Niagara River just below the falls, a stupendous piece of work.

But all this prosperity was but a respite before the gathering storm. In Kansas, the slavery issue had given rise to civil war. By an Act of Congress, known as the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, the old line of the Missouri Compromise had been abolished and the territory of Kansas divided into the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, and the settlers allowed to decide for themselves the question of slavery. Nebraska at once decided to come into the Union as a free state, but when the election was held in Kansas to determine this vital question, bands of Missourians crowded the border line and tried to force the territory into becoming a slave state, while thousands of Northerners hurried to Kansas to make it free. There were murders, and massacres, and the whole nation rang with the rising passions of civil war. But the advantage of numbers favored the Northerners and Kansas became not only a free territory, but also the stronghold of unity and liberty in the West.

It was also during President Pierce's administration that the present Republican Party came into being. The one outstanding principle that it stood for was *resistance to*

FIG. 79. In 1851, John A. Roebling began the erection at Niagara Falls of a long-span, wire suspension bridge with double roadway for railway and carriage use, which was completed in 1855. The Niagara River is now crossed by three bridges. The one pictured upon this stamp is the steel arch bridge which was built in 1895, and is crossed by double carriage ways and foot paths and by an electric railway. It is probably the longest bridge of its kind in the world, being 1,240 feet long with an arch span of 840 feet.

the extension of slave-holding interests. In the election of 1856, its first candidate, John C. Frémont, the hero of California (see p. 97), was defeated by the Democratic candidate, James Buchanan.

Throughout the four hectic years of his presidency (1857 to 1861), James Buchanan labored anxiously to unite all factions. His efforts, however, were in vain, for forces of greater power than his were hastening the issue and calling for a final adjustment. The Supreme Court was forced to decide that the free states could not prevent the slaveholder from bringing his slaves into their territory, even as he would his horses and cattle, and still retain possession of them (The Dred Scott Decision). This seemed to mean that the holding of slaves was legal in every part of the country and many people decided that such a law would not be carried out. This, of course, angered the South and increased the bitter feeling between the two factions.

Now Minnesota (1858) and Oregon (1859) were admitted to the Union, swelling the number of free states to twenty-one, while the South had fifteen—a number it could never exceed. The political struggle in behalf of slavery was over. Angry men began to think of other means and measures to settle the dispute.

Just at this critical period an event took place at Harper's Ferry in Virginia (1859) which threw the whole country into an uproar. John Brown, a fanatic who thought himself divinely appointed to liberate all the slaves, made a raid on the government arsenal to secure rifles and ammunition to place in the hands of the Negroes. It was his mad dream to see the four million slaves in the South rise up, slay their masters, and declare themselves free men.

Although John Brown was arrested and executed for this dastardly act, the South now became suspicious and embittered, believing that this was part of a deep-laid

scheme plotted by the North for their destruction. Hatred and antagonism clouded reason, and rumors of war were abroad. John Brown's execution made him a martyr in the cause of abolition, and within a little more than a year after his death Northern regiments were marching along the road to battle chanting the ever-to-be-remembered verse:

John Brown's body lies a-moldering in the grave,
But his soul is marching on.

11

During the four years of President Buchanan's administration, the newly formed Republican Party was busy preparing for the next election. Its policy of *resistance to the extension of the slave-holding interests* had brought voters into its ranks during these years as nothing else could have done, and, in 1860, it chose as its presidential candidate a young lawyer from Illinois—Abraham Lincoln.

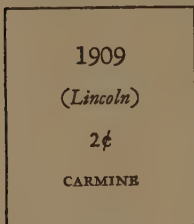


FIG. 80

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky in 1809. While still a very small boy his parents emigrated into the wilderness of Indiana, and it was here that he grew into young manhood. His early years were spent in toil, hardship, and poverty, but his great thirst for understanding and knowledge drove him to seek every available opportunity to develop himself. In 1834, Lincoln resolved to begin the study of law, and a few years later he opened

FIG. 80. This postage stamp was issued in February of 1909 to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth. The head of Lincoln, on this stamp, is engraved from a photograph of the monumental statue by Daniel Chester French which is in Lincoln Memorial building at Washington, D. C. (see Fig. 88, p. 115). Beneath the head, which is in profile and framed by a wreath, appears the date of his birth (Feb. 12) together with the dates 1809 and 1909.

a law office in Springfield, Illinois. As a lawyer, his straightforwardness, kindness and honesty, won the hearts of his neighbors and, in 1846, "Honest Abe," as they liked to call him, was elected to represent his state in Congress.

At the time of his nomination for the presidency, in 1860, Abraham Lincoln was not one of the most prominent leaders of the Republican Party, but he had recently won national attention by his success in a series of celebrated debates with Stephen Douglas in the campaign for election to the Senate.

In November, 1860, Lincoln, as the candidate of a party pledged to shut slavery from the territories, was elected President of the United States by the vote of every Northern state.

The news of this election was received in the South with distrust and alarm. They felt that the party which sponsored the abolition of slavery in the territories would not long be content with merely that. As an agricultural section, the South had come to depend upon the system of slavery. Their wealth, their culture, their civilization was built upon this system. It fed and clothed and sheltered them from day to day, and was a part of the foundation of their very existence. In the North there was no such great thing at stake. They were struggling not for self-preservation, but for a *principle*. The whole policy of the North had for years been a war upon their most sacred rights—their rights as sovereign states must now be considered before the preservation of the Union. There remained but one move—disunion.

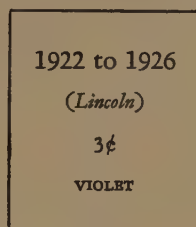


FIG. 81

FIG. 81. This postage stamp was issued on Feb. 12, 1923, just one hundred and fourteen years after Lincoln's birth. The picture upon the stamp is engraved from a photograph of the President.

The month after Lincoln's election, a convention met in Charleston, and unanimously voted "that the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other states, under the name of the United States of America, is hereby dissolved."

By February 1, 1861, the states of Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas—seven in all—had likewise withdrawn from the Union. These states now sent delegates to Montgomery, Alabama, where they

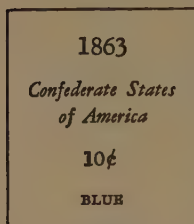


FIG. 82

framed a government and took the name of the "Confederate States of America." Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, was elected President of the confederacy, and the Stars and Stripes of the Republic were replaced with the Confederate Stars and Bars. The seceded states next seized the forts, arsenals, and other national property within their

limits and began to prepare for resistance, should the Union attempt to use force against them.

In March of 1861, the new Republican President was inaugurated at Washington. The whole country was waiting breathlessly to see how he would deal with the perilous situation. In his inaugural address (March 4, 1861) Lincoln said: "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so; and I have no inclination to do so." But in the same address the President also declared that he held the Union to be

FIG. 82. This stamp, issued by the Confederate States of America, is engraved from a photograph of Jefferson Davis, the first and only President of the Confederacy. Jefferson Davis was born in Kentucky in 1808 and died in 1889. He graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1828. In 1845 he was elected to Congress by the state of Mississippi, and in 1847 he entered the Senate where he advocated "State Sovereignty" and the extension of slavery. Under President Pierce he was Secretary of War. His state (Mississippi) seceded on Jan. 9, 1861. Mr. Davis kept his seat in the Senate until Jan. 21, and then withdrew to join the Southern Confederacy.

inseparable, and that he would do his utmost to preserve, protect, and defend it. He furthermore declared that the government had no intention of beginning war against the seceded states, but would do its utmost to retake the forts and other national property which had been seized by the Confederacy.

One of the forts which had not fallen into the hands of the Confederacy was Fort Sumter, which guarded the entrance to Charleston Harbor. On April 12, the Confederate batteries commenced to fire upon this fort, demanding its surrender. For two days and nights its gallant commander refused to surrender but continued to fire upon the nineteen rebel batteries which beset him, until the fort lay a mass of ruins—his 85 men had been confronted by 7,000.

The day following the fall of Fort Sumter (April 15, 1861), President Lincoln called for 75,000 troops for three month's service, and the North rose as one man. In less than thirty-six hours, troops were pouring into Washington. The flag of the United States had been fired upon. The sacred Union had been rent asunder. The question of slavery had given birth to an even greater issue. War between the states had begun.

Lincoln's first call for volunteers had been for a period of only three months, and everyone in the North confidently felt that the war would be over within that time. But the North had not realized the South's indomitable spirit nor her ability to resist. Not for three short months, but for four long years the war dragged on, devastating the country from Pennsylvania to Georgia and from Ohio

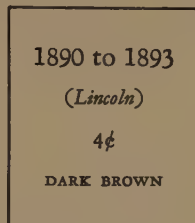


FIG. 83

FIG. 83. This postage stamp reproduces a photograph of Abraham Lincoln which was taken during his presidency. Both this stamp and the one of Fig. 81 were derived from the same photographic source.

to New Orleans. Union armies clad in blue and Confederate armies in uniforms of gray, brother Americans, harried each other up and down the land and fought each other upon the sea.

At the beginning of the great struggle, the Confederates seized the navy yard at Norfolk, Virginia, and took possession of the United States ship-of-war *Merrimac*. They covered her with a double plating of iron and gave her a huge steel ram or prow. She was thus converted into a floating fort, which easily sank two of the wooden Union men-of-war, the *Cumberland* and the *Congress*, at the mouth of the James River. Content with her day's work she steamed back up the river toward Richmond, intending to return on the morrow and sink the whole fleet. The news of her achievement flashed over the telegraph, north and south, and created great excitement. It was thought that she might proceed to bombard every Northern coastal city, even Washington, and that the fleets of the Union would be powerless against her.

The next day, when she returned to the mouth of the James to complete her work of destruction, she was met by the queerest looking craft the world had ever seen. This strange new vessel was covered entirely with metal and its deck was so low that the waves of the bay washed over it. The only part that appeared above the water line was a revolving iron turret which poured forth volleys of cannon fire in every direction. Some said that it looked like a "pill box on a raft" and that it was as hard to hit.

This was the new iron *Monitor*, the invention of the ingenious Swedish-American, John Ericsson. The *Merrimac* soon became a useless wreck before this new machine of destruction and was forced to flee, never to appear again.

The advent of the *Merrimac* and the *Monitor* revolutionized the navies of the world. American genius had made wooden ships a thing of the past, and useless for

real warfare. More Monitors were speedily added to the Northern fleet, and Great Britain and every other Power hastened to imitate us in the building of iron ships.

In 1864, President Lincoln appointed Ulysses S. Grant as general-in-chief of the Union armies. General Grant was a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and had served as a lieutenant in the Mexican War. He had risen to the rank of a general in the Union army and had won fame for his victorious campaigns while commanding the western army during the opening years of this war. He was every inch a soldier and the best man to direct the war in the East. Without waiting for a more favorable

opportunity, as other Union generals had done, Grant began a tremendous drive against the forces of the great Confederate general, Robert E. Lee, which was ultimately to end in the siege of Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, and in Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

In the meanwhile, the Union general, William T. Sherman, advanced from the Southwest, cap-

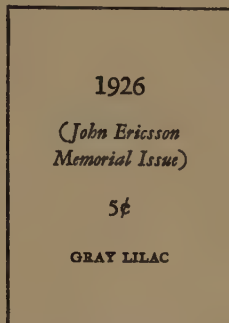


FIG. 84

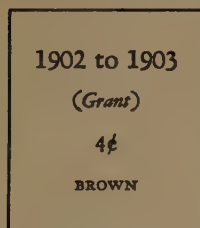


FIG. 85

FIG. 84. This postage stamp was issued on May 29, 1926, in memory of the eminent engineer and inventor, John Ericsson. It pictures the monument which was unveiled in Washington on this same date. This monument, which is the work of J. E. Fraser, shows Ericsson seated before the Norse tree of life, "Ygdrasil," around which are grouped figures symbolizing Vision, Labor, and Adventure. Conventionalized American and Swedish flags adorn the upper corners. John Ericsson was born in 1803 and died in 1889. He is best known because of his invention of the iron-clad *Monitor* whose victorious battle wrote the doom of wooden navies everywhere in the world. Also, it was largely through his labors that the screw-propeller replaced the paddle-wheel in our modern vessels. In 1840 he invented the hot-air engine.

FIG. 85. General Grant is here pictured in civilian attire. The postage stamp reproduces a photograph which was taken at the time of his presidency. The dates of his birth (1822) and death (1885) are given upon the scroll beneath the portrait together with his name.

tured the city of Atlanta, Georgia, and began his victorious march to the Atlantic (November, 1864). On December 21, the city of Savannah fell before his attack, and he continued his triumphant march northward to join General Grant in Virginia.

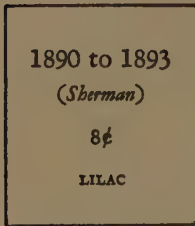


FIG. 86

On April 9, 1865, the Confederate army surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, a little place about seventy-five miles from Richmond, and the war was ended. Four years of warfare had destroyed the South, whereas the North had hardly begun to draw upon her resources. Both armies had fought valiantly, but the North had more with which to fight. The South was exhausted. Men, money, and materials, all had been heaped high upon the altar of "States Rights." She had given her all for a cause which was dear to her heart, but a cause whose principle was false and vicious at its core, and now she lay in the ashes of defeat. Thousands of millions of dollars and a million of lives, North and South, had been expended. The war was over; the Union had been preserved and the slavery issue was settled forever; but the price had been tremendous.

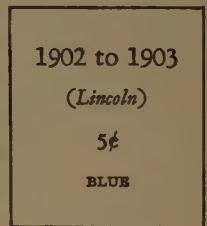


FIG. 87

President Lincoln had entered upon his second term in office a few weeks before the surrender of General Lee.

FIG. 86. This postage stamp reproduces an engraving made from a photograph of General Sherman dressed in military uniform. He was born at Lancaster, Ohio, in 1820, and graduated from West Point in 1840. He commanded a Union brigade at the battle of Bull Run (the first battle of the Civil War), and, under Grant, won the battle of Pittsburgh Landing. In May, 1862, he was made a major-general. He died in 1891.

FIG. 87. This postage stamp bears an adaption of the same portrait of Lincoln as appears upon the stamps of Figs. 81 and 83. The border is composed of figures of the Goddess of Liberty who hold in one hand the flag of the Republic and in the other hand a palm leaf which they unite over the head of Lincoln. Beneath the portrait are the dates of his birth (1809) and death (1865).

He appointed April 14 as a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving at the advent of peace, which was to be celebrated by the raising of the old Union flag at Fort Sumter, just four years from the day of its surrender.

But April 15, the telegraph bore terrible news which changed the rejoicing of the nation into bitter grief. Throughout the world went the woeful news—*Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated*. While he was attending a performance at the Ford Theatre in Washington, the assassin entered his box and shot him from behind. Noble men, both North and South, wept like children. Their calm, strong leader, who had so wisely guided the nation through the long years of civil strife, had become a martyr to the cause of liberty.

Throughout the years which have followed, the greatness of Abraham Lincoln has rung true, and he has taken his rightful place amongst the immortal heroes of all times. Loved by all men, white and black, he stands forever as the embodiment of American idealism purified by strife.

George Washington, by his leadership and integrity, had made the Republic possible; Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, the scholar and the warrior, had made it popular; but it had remained for Abraham Lincoln, the martyr of unionism, to make it permanent.

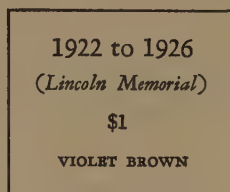


FIG. 88

FIG. 88. This postage stamp was issued on Lincoln's birthday, Feb. 12, 1923. The Lincoln Memorial in Washington was completed in 1922. It is a beautiful and imposing building in Doric style, with columns of Colorado marble. At its base it measures 204 feet long and 134 feet wide; its height is 72 feet, and it stands on an imposing site overlooking the Potomac River. The memorial hall within is 156 by 84 feet, decorated with mural paintings by Jules Guerin, and dominated from one end by a colossal statue of Lincoln by Daniel Chester French. The architect was Henry Bacon.



The United States as a World Power

Chapter IV

THE STORY OF THE NATION UNITED

1

ALTHOUGH the war between the States ended four years after it began (1861 to 1865) it was not until 1877 that the Union was again completely restored.

When peace had been finally assured, Abraham Lincoln had said, "Let us strive to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations." He had planned to pardon the seceded states and bring them speedily back into the Union.

The untimely death of President Lincoln had made Vice-president Johnson the head of the nation. Andrew Johnson was determined to carry out Lincoln's program and, in 1865, he issued a proclamation of pardon to the greater part of the people of the South on condition that they would swear to support, protect, and defend the Constitution and the Union. Many of the once rebellious people took the oath.

President Johnson, however, did not have the personality and the ability to lead men as had Abraham Lincoln. The Republican Congress soon came to distrust his motives and refused to accept the elected representatives sent to Washington by the South. The "rebels" were not to return to power so easily. They must be punished still

more. And Congress, over the President's veto, put the vanquished states under military governors and placed soldiers in their cities, even as the British had done ninety years before.

Then in quick succession came amendments to the Constitution passed by the Republican Congress and ratified by the Northern states. The Thirteenth Amendment, which had been passed by Congress under Lincoln, had made the Negro free. Now came the Fourteenth Amendment which made him a citizen, and the Fifteenth which finished the work by making him a voter. In four brief years the Negro had had his political status changed from that of a slave to that of a ruler, and, under Northern military protection and guided by unscrupulous fortune seekers from the North, called *Carpet-baggers*, and in the South, called *Scalleywags*, they were encouraged to vote and elect their own people to high offices in their states. Thus for several years most of the Southern states were governed by ignorant Negroes and white rascals. The South was being punished with vengeance.

It was during these distressing years of readjustment, which the historians have called the "Period of Reconstruction," that the United States took another great forward step in territorial expansion.

In 1867, the great northwestern part of North America, known as Alaska, belonged to the Tsar of Russia. It was a vast frozen wilderness whose rugged mountains were covered with perpetual snow and whose rivers and glaciers had never been completely explored. Its fur trade was valuable, and the fisheries on the southern coast were worthy of development. Russia, however, found that it was too far away to be governed well, and fearing that it might be seized by England who governed all of Canada, her minister was authorized to offer it for sale to the United States.

At this time, William H. Seward was Secretary of State under President Johnson, and he welcomed the opportunity to buy Alaska. Russia's offer was quickly accepted and the treaty of sale was drawn up the very day the offer was made. On October 11, 1867, the treaty was ratified by Congress and in exchange for \$7,200,000, the United States came into possession of 577,390 square miles of land. Now the total area of the United States was nearly equal to that of all the countries of Europe combined.

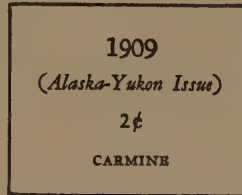


FIG. 89

In the presidential election of 1868 the Republicans nominated General Ulysses S. Grant as their candidate.

His popularity as a military leader and their control of the Southern Negro governments enabled him to carry the country by an overwhelming majority. Although he served for two terms (1869 to 1877) he was not so successful as a politician as he had been a general. He had had no diplomatic training and this office was the first political

position he had ever filled. His honest straightforwardness was often taken advantage of by financial and political schemers who brought him, unsuspectingly, to favor their selfish ambitions.

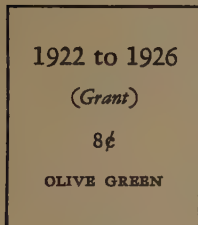


FIG. 90

FIG. 89. This postage stamp was issued in 1909 to commemorate the acquisition of Alaska, the subsequent development of the Yukon territory, and its connection with the Pacific Coast by navigation. The stamp bears the portrait of Secretary of State William H. Seward who was the chief official negotiating the purchase from Russia. Mr. Seward was also Secretary of State under President Lincoln, and on the night of Lincoln's assassination he was stabbed at his home by a conspirator but fortunately recovered from his wound.

FIG. 90. This postage stamp was issued on May 1, 1923, approximately one hundred and one years after the birth of General Grant. He was born at Point Pleasant, Claremont County, Ohio, on Apr. 27, 1822, and died near Saratoga, N. Y., July 23, 1885. His tomb in New York City overlooks the Hudson River and is one of the beauty spots of that great city which was his last home.

The great question of his first administration was still the "reconstruction" of the South. The Negro governments there had revelled in an era of shameful and unbridled corruption while the old white voting population was taxed to the utmost for the extravagances of these vicious governments. A protest began to rise even in the North, where men declared that the whites were now being made slaves to the blacks.

The Southerners had now taken matters into their own hands and had organized a secret society known as the Ku Klux Klan whose members, clad in their ghostly white robes, succeeded in terrorizing the more superstitious of the Negroes and thus regained some of their privileges. Gradually, too, the restrictions upon the voting of former Confederates were being removed by the federal government. The whites were again coming into power and, by 1876, their control was nearly everywhere restored.

Aside from this continued turmoil in the South, the most important event during President Grant's first term was the completion of the transcontinental railway to the Pacific. With the aid of the government, work had been begun in 1864, and tracks were laid from the east and from the west at the same time. On May 10, 1869, the workmen from the east and west met at Promontory Point in Utah and the engines from the Pacific Coast and from the Atlantic Coast stood facing each other on the single track as the last spike of the last rail was driven, thus completing the greatest work of the kind then in the world. The blows of the sledge hammer which drove that famous spike were telegraphed, as they fell, to every telegraph office throughout the Union.

The Pacific Coast was only a week's journey from the Atlantic. People could now travel from New York to San Francisco in little more time than it had taken their grandparents to go from Boston to Philadelphia. And with

the railroad to offer quick and inexpensive transportation, thousands upon thousands of people from the East and from Europe began to push into the West. To hasten this settlement of the country's interior, Congress, in 1862, passed the Homestead Act, which practically made a present of one-hundred and sixty acres of land to every settler on condition that he build himself a

home and proceed to cultivate and improve the soil. The settlers' labor soon began to change the country of Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, and the newer states west and north

of them into great grain fields and orchards of beautiful fruit. A single wheat field might cover several thousands of acres—while in the Far West great ranges were staked out upon which hundreds of thousands of cattle ranged.

During President Grant's second administration, the celebration of the nation's one-hundredth birthday was held at Philadelphia. The principal buildings of the Centennial Exposition covered a total space of about seventy-five acres. All of the nations of the world sent products of their industry or their art to be

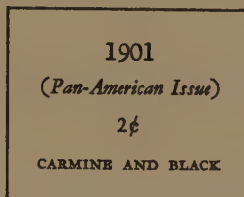


FIG. 91

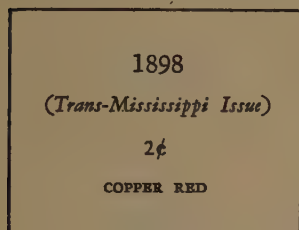


FIG. 92

FIG. 91. This postage stamp was issued in 1901 at the time of the Pan-American Exposition which was held at Buffalo. It pictures one of America's most famous trains, the *Empire State Express*, which was the first train to run on regular schedule time between New York and Chicago. For several years this train made the trip in the advertised running time of eighteen hours—two hours less time than is required by the fastest trains of today. The photograph reproduced upon the stamp was taken when the train was moving at the speed of sixty miles an hour.

FIG. 92. This interesting postage stamp was issued in 1898 at the time of the St. Louis Exposition to commemorate the opening and development of the West. The picture represents a western grain field with a long row of plows at work preparing the soil for the planting.

exhibited, but our own country took the lead in the display of useful inventions.

One of the devices which caused unusual interest was an instrument for reproducing the sound of the human voice over great distance by means of electricity. Its inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, had been spoken of by one of the newspapers of the time as being "a crank who thinks he can talk through a piece of wire." He was, however, a teacher at the Boston University, and his curious invention with improvements and modifications, constitutes the modern telephone. Samuel Morse had used an electric current to transmit messages by code over miles of copper wire (see p. 98), but Professor Bell had gone a step further and devised a way by which people might talk to each other, as though face to face, even though they were many miles apart. The Electrical Age of marvels had dawned, yet no one in the world of 1876 could even dimly imagine the many wonders which we enjoy today, such as radio entertainments, wireless telegraphy, and talking moving pictures.

2

According to Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War was fought to save the Union. In reality, the Union was saved only as far as its territorial boundaries were concerned. Actually, a new Union arose out of the conflict, which was very soon to become the leader of the world in wealth, progress, and general prosperity.

With the election of President Rutherford B. Hayes, in 1876, a new era began in the history of the United States. President Hayes rightly believed that there would never be peace in the South until the states were allowed to manage their own affairs. Therefore, among the first of his acts was the withdrawal of the last of the Union

troops from Louisiana and South Carolina, trusting that the whites and the blacks would come to an understanding amongst themselves. The days of "reconstruction" were at last over. The bitter question of slavery had been settled forever and the South, at last freed from the hampering bonds of an evil system, began to develop the great wealth of natural resources to which they had before been blinded by their agricultural existence.

By the close of 1877, the Southern States were fully restored to their Constitutional powers, and the Union now numbered thirty-eight states, whereas but a hundred years before there had been but thirteen bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

President Hayes (1877 to 1881) proved to be a most satisfactory leader, and he devoted himself to giving the country a wise and generous government. Internal improvements, such as the deepening of the mouth of the Mississippi River, were undertaken and the finances of the country were put in such excellent order that our credit was rated among the best in the world.

In a little laboratory at Menlo Park, New Jersey, a young man had been working for months endeavoring to perfect a new kind of light. He was Thomas A. Edison and the new light was the incandescent electric lamp. Thomas Edison did not invent the incandescent lamp. Indeed, a crude forerunner of the light had been exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876

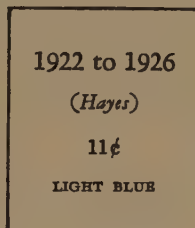


FIG. 93

FIG. 93. This postage stamp was issued on Oct. 4, 1922, to commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of President Hayes. He was born at Delaware, Ohio, on Oct. 4, 1822. As a young man he achieved considerable success as a lawyer and served with distinction in the Civil War. In 1865 he became a member of Congress from Ohio, and in 1867 he was elected governor of the State. In 1877 he became the nineteenth president of the United States. His death occurred in 1893.

(see p. 121). Edison, however, did *perfect* the lamp. He eliminated its fatal defects by giving the lamp a complete vacuum, devising a new filament and a new platinum wire to connect with the filament. With that accomplished, he developed the idea of a central power station for generating the current to feed many lamps in a system. No one in the world had ever thought of doing this.

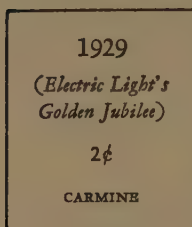


FIG. 94

Candles, kerosene, and flickering gas lamps soon gave way before the brilliancy of the electric light. The semidarkness of night was turned into daylight; our cities became glittering spectacles of dazzling light; people in all walks of life, the student, the factory worker, the scientist, and the railroad engineer—all have been the beneficiaries of this electrical triumph.

In 1881, James A. Garfield became the President of the United States. President Garfield had risen from the humblest to the highest position in the land. As a boy his parents had been very poor, and when other boys of his age were attending school this young President was walking canal tow paths driving the mules who pulled the canal boats. But he envisioned better things for himself, and by hard work and perseverance he fitted himself for college, and graduated from Williams College, Massachusetts. With the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted among the Union forces and there rose to the rank of major general. In 1863, he was elected to Congress, and later

FIG. 94. This unusual postage stamp was issued in Oct. 1929, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Edison's first lamp. It was first issued at the postoffice in Menlo Park, N. J. It pictures a replica of the incandescent electric light which Edison displayed in his laboratory in 1879. During the celebration of Edison's discovery, which was called "Light's Golden Jubilee," the entire world joined in paying tribute to the creator of this lamp. Thomas A. Edison and Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh are the only two men who have been honored by postage stamp immortality in our country during their lifetime (see also Fig. 128, p. 151).

was chosen United States Senator, in which capacity he served the nation until his election to the presidency in 1880.

President Garfield had been in office but three months, when he was shot, in the Washington railway station, by a disappointed and half-crazed office seeker. The wounded President hovered for weeks between life and death, and died on September 19, at Long Branch, New Jersey.

He was the last martyr to the "spoils system" (see pp. 91, 95).

Chester Alan Arthur, the Vice-president, now became President of the United States.

The tragic death of President Garfield led to the creation of a Civil Service Commission. A Civil Service Reform Act, passed in 1883, took the laborious duty of appointing the thousands of government officials out of the President's hands and placed it in the hands of a Commission whose duty it was to conduct examinations and make recommendations on the basis of qualification rather than on the basis of political favor. This reform was heartily approved by President Arthur and has been indorsed by every succeeding President. The operations of this Commission have since been greatly extended and now practically all government positions must be sought through examinations which are planned to seek out those

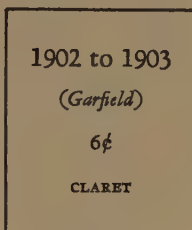


FIG. 95

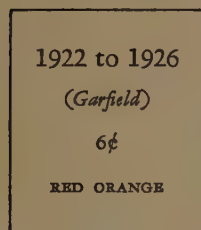


FIG. 96

FIG. 95. This postage stamp was issued in 1902 and reproduces a photograph of President Garfield. The dates of his birth (1831) and death (1881) appear upon the scroll beneath the portrait.

FIG. 96. This postage stamp was issued on Nov. 20, 1922, to commemorate the ninety-first anniversary of President Garfield's birth (Nov. 19, 1831). The stamp portrait is that of the series of 1902 to 1903 (see Fig. 95), but engraved larger and with better effect.

best fitted to fill them. Now all Americans have an equal opportunity to attain government employment, and those who get places have the right to keep them as long as they show themselves faithful and capable instead of losing them with the change of political party administration.

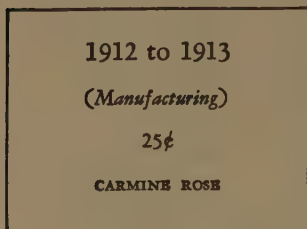


FIG. 97

Symbolic of the growing prosperity in the North was the completion of the great East River Suspension Bridge in 1883, connect-

ing New York City with Brooklyn. This bridge was built at the cost of nearly \$15,000,000. It is over a mile in length and had taken fourteen years to build. Its designer was that master bridge builder, John A. Roebling, who had built the suspension bridge at Niagara Falls (see Fig. 79).

In the South, the twenty years since the war had wrought a great change in the economic life of the people. In 1884, an Industrial Exhibition was held at New Orleans. The real importance of this exhibition did not depend on its display of any one product, but in the fact that it proved that the South had entirely changed—that it had in fact become a "New South." What had once been a purely agricultural country, now had thousands of manufacturing and mining enterprises. Birmingham, Atlanta, and Chattanooga were threatening to rival the North with their cotton and iron mills. The Southern states were throbbing with life and industry, and rejoicing in their own emancipation from the shackles of slavery.

FIG. 97. This postage stamp was issued at the time of the inauguration of the parcel post system in 1912. It pictures a great manufacturing plant with its long buildings and its many smoke stacks. A huge electric crane may be seen in the foreground unloading coal from railway cars to feed the furnaces of the steel mills.

3

With the election of Grover Cleveland to the presidency, in 1884, a political revolution took place. Since the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, in 1861, there had been no Democratic President of the United States. The Republican Party had been the political party which opposed slavery most strenuously and as a result of their Civil War record they had governed the country for almost a quarter of a century. President Cleveland was the first Democratic candidate to win election since President Buchanan (see p. 107).

No longer were there war issues to divide the political parties, but the older issue of the *tariff* (see p. 92) once again became the subject of contention. As the southern states returned to the Union they came back politically as Democrats, and as Democrats they sought to prevent a re-occurrence of the Negro governments which had been allowed by the Republican Party. They also opposed the Republican's protective tariff which was more beneficial to the North than to the South.

The years of President Cleveland's first administration (1885 to 1889) were years in which great new national problems were forming. In 1886, the "American Federation of Labor" was organized. Its object was to promote the welfare of the

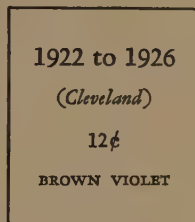


FIG. 98

FIG. 98. This postage stamp was issued on Mar. 20, 1923, to commemorate the eighty-fifth anniversary of President Cleveland's birth (approximately). Stephen Grover Cleveland was born at Caldwell, N. J., on Mar. 18, 1837. His father soon after moved to New York state, and at the age of eighteen Grover began the study of law in Buffalo. In 1881, he was elected mayor of that city and the following year he became governor of New York. In 1885 he became the twenty-second President, and again in 1893 the twenty-fourth President of the United States. He died in 1908, having also been the first Dean of the Graduate College of Princeton University.

great body of workingmen in the United States. During this same year, there was great labor unrest and hundreds of "strikes" in almost every section of the country were reported. The workingman was beginning to claim rights for himself by forming associations for his own protection and advancement.

It was during this time, too, that the owners of great businesses, the capitalists, began to form companies to carry on business on a scale never before dreamed of. These so-called "trusts" were formed to control the entire production and marketing of many products. Now we have the organization of such great national companies as the Bell Telephone Company, the Standard Oil Company, and trusts for the manufacture and sale of tobacco,

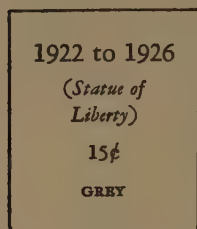


FIG. 99

steel, sugar, and dozens of other staple products. Unlimited in wealth and resources, they often secured the complete monopoly of a product and forced the smaller manufacturers and producers out of business. Later, the government undertook to establish regulations and supervise the methods by which these great trusts carried on their

business (see p. 138).

It was also during President Cleveland's administration that the "Statue of Liberty" was dedicated and lighted (1886). This statue—the largest of the kind ever made—represents the Goddess of Liberty enlightening the world. It was presented to the people of the United States by the

FIG. 99. This interesting postage stamp was issued on Nov. 11, 1922. This world-famous statue is the work of the French sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi (1834–1904). The sculptor's model is said to have been his mother. The statue was conceived in 1865 and was completed in 1884. It was then shipped to the United States and erected in its present position in 1886. The French engineer, M. Eiffel, the designer and builder of the Eiffel Tower, designed the supports, which raise the great figure so that her flaming torch is 305 feet in the air. The tablet which the goddess holds in her left hand is inscribed with the date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence "July 4th, 1776."

citizens of the Republic of France as a memorial of their friendly feeling toward us, and as an expression of their faith in the permanence of the American government. The statue stands on Bedloe's Island at the mouth of New York Harbor. It is always a welcome sight to travelers returning from abroad, and it stands as a greeting to the thousands of immigrants who yearly come to our country to find a new home.

In the campaign of 1888, President Cleveland was defeated by General Benjamin Harrison, a grandson of the earlier President Harrison (see p. 95).

During the years of President Harrison's administration (1889 to 1893) six new western states were added to the Union—Montana, Washington, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, and Wyoming, making a total of forty-four, and the great territory of Oklahoma was purchased from the Indians and opened for settlement.

The census of the United States taken during this administration (1890) reported the total population to be over 62,000,000 people. Since the first census, in 1790, we had gained more than 58,000,000 of people and had occupied the continent from ocean to ocean.

The power of the American nation now began to show itself on the ocean as well as on the continent. Since 1884, the old and worn wooden sailing vessels which made up a large part of our navy had been gradually replaced by beautiful and powerful steel steamers. These new war vessels, which were of the newest design and construction, were generally named after cities and states

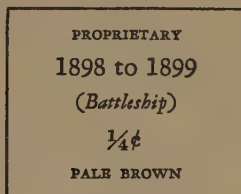


FIG. 100

FIG. 100. This proprietary stamp was issued by the government in 1898 for the purpose of collecting revenue. It pictures one of the new types of battleships which was soon to make our navy famous throughout the world.

and soon became the pride of the nation. The test of their ability was soon to come in the war with Spain.

In the election of 1892, President Harrison was defeated by the Democratic Ex-President Grover Cleveland on the issue of the tariff. Under President Harrison the tariff had been raised, and Cleveland believed that his election expressed the nation's dissatisfaction with the protective tax and he, therefore, sought to reduce the tariff rates. The years of his second administration (1893 to 1897) were

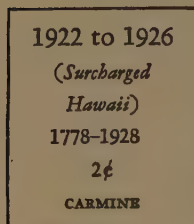


FIG. 101

years of business unrest and labor disturbances. The effects of the great Pullman strike in Chicago were felt throughout the whole country, and, in 1894, a new money panic did enormous damage to all kinds of business. Thousands of men were without work and a man named Coxey led an army of the unemployed on a march from Ohio to Washington to protest before the President. This army, however, melted away before it reached the capital and when Coxey finally did arrive in Washington he was arrested by the police for walking on the grass of the White House lawn and his few followers were disbanded. The incident tends to show something of the growing unrest in the ranks of labor.

One of the important foreign matters of this administration was the Hawaii affair. There had been a rebellion in the Pacific islands of Hawaii. Americans, with the aid of United States forces, had seized control of these islands, and having set up a government of their own, they applied for

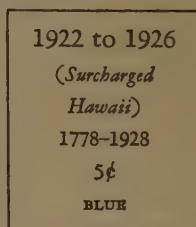


FIG. 102

FIGS. 101 and 102. These two postage stamps of the regular series of 1922 to 1926 were issued in 1928 surcharged HAWAII 1778-1928 to commemorate the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the Hawaiian Islands by Captain James Cook, an English navigator. The Hawaiian group consists of twelve islands which have a total area of less than 7,000 square miles.

admission to the Union. President Cleveland believed that the rebellion was not the work of the natives but only of a few American intruders, and he refused to recognize their action as representing the true wishes of Hawaii. They, therefore, declared the islands to be an independent republic, but on July 6, 1898, this decision was retracted by President McKinley and the Hawaiian Islands were welcomed as a territory of the United States.

It was also during these closing years of the nineteenth century that a new type of conveyance—the automobile—began to be seen on the city streets and along the country roads. A new kind of engine—the combustion engine—had been invented. Such mechanical inventors as Haynes, Duryea, Olds, Ford, and others, had contrived to harness this engine to drive carriages. These early automobiles sometimes developed a speed of twenty to thirty miles an hour and they could always be heard long before they were seen. By 1900, there were less than a thousand of them in the country, but today they have completely revolutionized the pleasure and the business life of the nation and our roads are covered with millions of automobiles, while the horse and carriage, which drew President Taft to his inauguration, even as late as 1909, has become an object of curiosity.

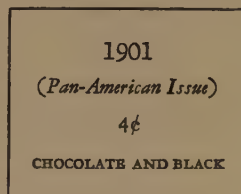


FIG. 103

4

In 1897, William McKinley was inaugurated the twenty-fifth President of the United States. In his inaugural

FIG. 103. This postage stamp was issued at the time of the Pan-American Exposition which was held at Buffalo. It reproduces a photograph of one of the early American automobiles.

address the new President declared himself for strict economy in the management of the government, for the advancement of Civil Service Reform (see p. 125), and for the maintenance of peace with all the nations of the earth.

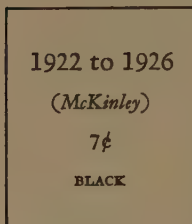


FIG. 104

By this time the country had recovered from the money panic and hard times of the previous administration, and had entered upon a program of prosperity and progress. By 1898, our exports had increased enormously. Great ocean vessels carried hundreds of millions of dollars worth of our products abroad every year. To Great Britain we now sent not only cotton for her mills but also breadstuffs, provisions, and cattle to feed her people. American locomotives and rails were sent to Russia, China, and Japan; American tools, hardware, and machines were used in every country of the world, and we were underbidding the world in the manufacture of iron, copper, and steel. All this was bringing greater wealth to the nation and greater comfort and happiness to the workingman.

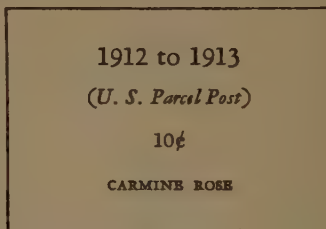


FIG. 105

FIG. 104. This postage stamp was issued on May 1, 1923, to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the birth of President McKinley. William McKinley was born in 1843 in Niles, Ohio. During the Civil War he attained the rank of major. In 1876 he was elected to represent the state of Ohio in Congress. In 1896 he became the President of the United States, and was re-elected to that office in 1900. He was assassinated in 1901 while holding a reception at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo. McKinley was the third President to fall the victim of an assassin.

FIG. 105. This postage stamp was issued in 1912 at the time of the opening of the parcel-post service. It pictures a great ocean liner such as carry thousands of tons of our manufactured and natural products abroad every year. The great steamer is shown loading mail into one of the government's mail packets to be rushed to the nearest postoffice while the liner waits in quarantine. In the background is the skyline of New York City.

This same year (1898) was also one of great agricultural prosperity for the United States. In the West enormous crops of grain were raised which were eagerly purchased by foreign markets. Millions of bushels were sent abroad which were paid for in gold, thus bringing prosperity also to the farmer and adding greatly to the wealth of the nation. Banks all over the country increased their activities and there were millions of dollars to be invested in stocks and bonds of enterprising businesses.

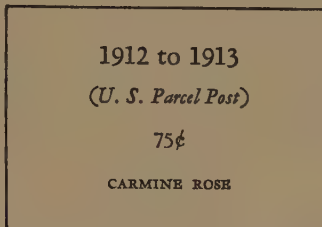


FIG. 106

During the second year of President McKinley's administration our nation was drawn into war with Spain. Since 1895, the island of Cuba had been in a state of revolution against its oppressor, Spain. So vicious and horrible

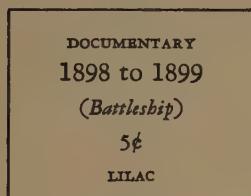


FIG. 107

was Spain's treatment of the Cuban natives that the United States tried to induce her to reform her military methods. The Spaniards accused us of prolonging the rebellion by our sympathy, and their resentment at our interference became very bitter.

On February 15, 1898, the American battleship *Maine*, while lying in the harbor of Havana, was destroyed by an explosion. She quickly sank carrying with her two hundred and sixty-six of her crew. The terrible news shocked and

FIG. 106. This interesting postage stamp was issued in 1913 as a unit of the United States Parcel Post series. It reproduces a photograph which shows dozens of harvesting machines at work gathering the grain crop on one of our western farms. These remarkable machines are the outgrowth of the reaping machines which were invented independently by Obed Hussey and Cyrus H. McCormick and patented in 1834. Not only do they cut the grain in the field, but they also thresh it and pack it into bags for shipping.

FIG. 107. This documentary stamp was issued by the government in 1898 for the purpose of collecting revenue. It pictures a battleship of the "new navy." The *Maine* was such a vessel as the one pictured here.

angered the American people who thought that it had been an act of Spanish malice. A naval Court of Inquiry made an investigation but found no evidence showing whether the explosion was caused by accident or design, and they accused no one of having been guilty of the act.

In April (1898), President McKinley declared, in a special message to Congress, that in the "name of humanity . . . the war in Cuba must stop." Congress now demanded that Spain give up all sovereignty over Cuba and recognize her independence. Spain refused to heed our demand and, on April 23, the President called for 125,000 volunteers—war had been declared against Spain. Young men from both the North and the South rallied at the call. The nation was no longer divided, but a nation united.

A war with such a colonial power as Spain must of

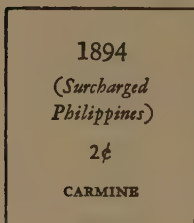


FIG. 108

necessity be primarily a naval war. Of her once great empire she now held only Cuba and Porto Rico in the West Indies and many isolated island groups in the Pacific Ocean. Our plan was to attack Spain through her far-flung colonies.

The first blow of the war was struck in far-off Asia, when Commodore George Dewey succeeded in destroying a Spanish fleet in the harbor of Manila, the capital of the Philippine Islands, without the loss of a single American life. Ten thousand troops were rushed to the islands from San Francisco and they forced the surrender of the city of Manila. Then the natives of the islands rebelled against the Americans, even as they

FIG. 108. To meet the emergency needs for postage stamps in the Philippine Islands the government, in 1899, surcharged the United States regular postage issue of 1894 with the name PHILIPPINES in black ink. This was the first postage issue of the Philippine Islands under American dominion. The Philippines comprise over 400 islands, many of which are very small. They have a total area of over 122,000 square miles. Luzon, the largest of the islands, of which Manila is the capital, is nearly as large as the state of Ohio.

had against the Spaniards. Their leaders sought political freedom, not a change of masters.

For three long years American soldiers harried these rebellious natives and finally succeeded in capturing their leader, thus ending the open warfare. In 1899, the Philippine Islands became a territory of the United States. The Philippine campaign is one of the pages of American history that we can find very little pride in reading. Although our nation has done much to bring civilization and culture to the natives of these islands, they are still earnestly looking forward to their complete independence.

The real war took place along the Cuban Coast. Our government declared a blockade of Havana and its vicinity, and our ships began making prizes of Spanish vessels while our troops were landed upon the island. A Spanish fleet was sent across the ocean under the command of Admiral Cervera and there was much alarm for fear it might bombard our undefended coast cities. But Cervera steamed straight to Cuba and entered the harbor of Santiago.

Here his fleet was discovered and blockaded by a force that rapidly increased until it contained five battle-ships, two cruisers, and a number of smaller boats. This fleet was under the command of Admiral William T. Sampson, and so ably did he maintain the blockade that there seemed little chance of Cervera again having the opportunity to menace our coast. In the meanwhile, the American troops were advancing upon the city of Santiago.

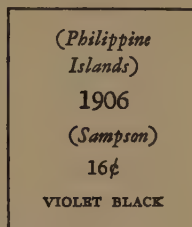


FIG. 109

FIG. 109. This postage stamp is one of the series issued in 1906 by the United States government for Philippine Island postage. It reproduces a photograph of Admiral William T. Sampson, the victor of Santiago. Admiral Sampson was born in Palmyra, N. Y., on Feb. 9, 1840, and died in 1902. He was a graduate of the United States Naval Academy in 1860 and Superintendent of the Academy 1886 to 1890. After war was declared against Spain he was appointed Rear Admiral.

On July 3, (1898), the American commander, General Shafter, demanded the surrender of the city. Admiral Cervera, foreseeing the final result, had already determined to escape with his fleet, and at about nine o'clock in the morning of that same day he sailed boldly out of the narrow harbor. Soon a shout went up from the waiting American fleet, "The Spaniards are coming!" Both sides opened fire at the same moment and a running fight along the coast ensued. But the Spanish Admiral's squadron proved to be no match for the superior American battle-ships, and within a few hours Cervera's whole fleet was afire and grounded upon the shore.

Commodore Philip of the battleship *Texas* added further honor to the victory by quickly warning his men, "Don't cheer, boys, the poor fellows are dying." Haste was made to rescue the Spanish sailors from their burning vessels. Six hundred of them had perished and sixteen hundred surrendered as prisoners. The American losses were at first unbelievable—one man killed and two wounded. Our ships were practically uninjured.

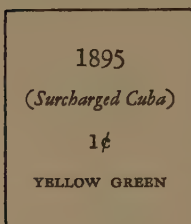


FIG. 110

On July 17, the city of Santiago surrendered to the American troops and the war was practically ended. After the fall of Santiago the only fear was that Spain should ask for peace before all of her possessions could be seized. The little island of Guam in mid-Pacific had already been seized by our troops on their way to the Philippines. Its Spanish governor did not even know war had been declared.

FIG. 110. To meet the emergency need for postage stamps in Cuba the United States government, in 1899, surcharged the regular postage issue of 1895 with the name CUBA and the various denominational values. For three years after the war the island of Cuba was under the military government of the United States with Major-general Leonard Wood in command. On May 20, 1902, the first Cuban President was installed under his own flag, the Cuban republic was recognized by the United States, and the American troops were withdrawn.

He offered no resistance, and Guam and the entire Ladrone group of islands fell undisputed into our hands.

General Nelson Miles, the head of the American army, was sent with several thousand troops to capture Porto Rico. There he found very little opposition even from the Spanish troops. The natives welcomed the Americans as their deliverers and cheered them on their way.

There was nothing for Spain to do but submit. They had no navy left worthy of the name, and were unable to reinforce any of their colonies. The terms of the final treaty of peace, which was signed at Paris (December 10, 1898), were that Spain should free Cuba, and that she should surrender to the United States Porto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, though for the latter we agreed to pay her \$20,000,000.

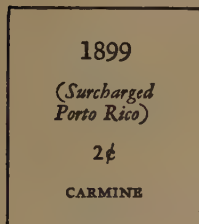


FIG. 112

The year 1898 marked a radical change in our national policy. Henceforth we were destined to be an "imperial" nation and a world power. Our government had reached out to control the destinies of peoples and lands which differed from us in tradition and language. In one year we had gained the territories of the Philippines, Porto Rico, Hawaii, Guam, and two years later (1900) we came into possession of the Samoan Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

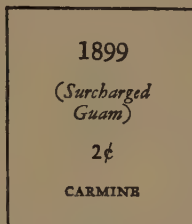


FIG. 111

FIG. 111. In 1899 appeared a provisional postage stamp issue in which the name GUAM was surcharged in black on the regular United States issue of 1898 to 1899. This issue was used for postage on the island of Guam. Guam was an area of 200 square miles and has been used as a naval port.

FIG. 112. In 1899 the five lower denominational postage stamps of the regular issue of United States stamps of that year were surcharged Porto Rico in black. After this issue the stamps of Porto Rico were replaced by those of the United States. Porto Rico, with its three small dependent islands, has an area of a little over 3,600 square miles, and is therefore nearly three times as large as the state of Rhode Island.

In the spring of 1901, the Pan-American Exposition was opened at Buffalo. It was especially designed to show the progress made by the nations of North, South, and Central America, in agriculture, manufactures, and the arts (*pan* is a Greek work meaning "all"). Furthermore, its object was to bring all the nations of the American continent into closer friendly and commercial relationship.

President McKinley, who had just been re-elected, visited the Exposition and on September 6 while he was holding a reception was treacherously shot by a young man who came forward as though to shake hands with him. He died on September 14, after a week of suffering and was succeeded by his Vice-president, Theodore Roosevelt.

5

Theodore Roosevelt was not yet forty-three years of age when he became President of the United States. Although he was the youngest man who had attained that exalted office, few men ever came to the position so well equipped to shoulder its responsibilities. He was a graduate of Harvard, a political reformer, an historian of merit, a naval administrator, a naturalist, big-game hunter, an author, and a soldier. Of all the Presidents, he was the most versatile, the nearest approach to him being Thomas Jefferson (see p. 72).

Throughout the years of his administrations (1901 to 1909) he proved to be a friend to all classes of Americans, a relentless hunter of corruption in all affairs which affected the people, an ardent champion of the United States and a strong hand at the helm of the national government. Under Roosevelt, the federal government became the "senior partner" of the industry and commerce of the country, and business corruption which robbed the people

was exposed by governmental investigation. It also became the duty of the government to safeguard the food of the nation by regulating and inspecting the methods of raising, packing, and selling meat and other foods. A vast program of conservation was inaugurated to protect the natural resources of the country and great irrigation systems were planned to bring water to the desert waste lands.

It was during President Roosevelt's first administration (1901 to 1905) that two remarkable inventions were made which have further revolutionized our modern life. Since the invention of the telegraph by Samuel Morse in 1844 (see p. 98) messages had been sent by wire all over the country and under the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Now, in 1903, a new kind of telegraph—a wireless telegraph, the invention of the Italian genius, Signor Guglielmo Marconi, was perfected and a station installed on Cape Cod. President Roosevelt, on January 18, 1903, sent the first telegram through the air from the United States across the Atlantic. The wireless telegraph soon proved invaluable, especially to ships at sea. It has been constantly improved and its principles made possible the radio and the wireless telephone and television of our day.

The second great invention of this period was even more spectacular and of possibly greater consequence. It has always been the dream of mankind to be able to fly through the air like the birds. During the Civil and Spanish-American wars, man had been lifted above the

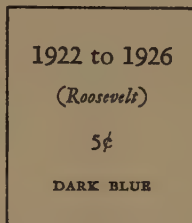


FIG. 113

FIG. 113. This postage stamp was issued on Oct. 27, 1922, to commemorate the sixty-fourth anniversary of Roosevelt's birth. President Roosevelt was born in New York City on Oct. 27, 1858, and died in 1919. His portrait was selected for the five-cent denomination because this stamp is most widely used on letters going to foreign countries, where he is believed to be better known than any other President.

ground by balloons to spy upon the movements of the enemy, but these balloons were lighter than air and could not rival the birds in their flight. Mankind still dreamed of making a *flying-machine*. For many years two young brothers, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, had worked to construct such a machine. In spite of discouragement and ridicule, they persevered and their genius was finally rewarded.

On December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, on the sandy coast of North Carolina, Wilbur Wright made the first successful man flight in a heavier-than-air machine in history. His machine remained in the air less than a minute,

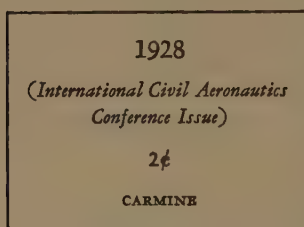


FIG. 114

and flew less than three hundred yards, but the possibility of human flight had been proven and thereafter progress was rapid. Just after the close of Roosevelt's second administration, Orville Wright, in June, 1909, circled above Washington for one hour, nine minutes,

and thirty-one seconds, carrying a passenger with him in his plane. Mankind had unfolded his wings. The conquest of the air had begun.

It was also during Roosevelt's administration that work was begun on the Panama Canal. In 1903, our government received in full sovereignty a strip of land ten miles wide across the isthmus of Panama—the Canal Zone. For this concession we agreed to pay to the new Republic

FIG. 114. As part of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first flight by man in a power-driven, heavier-than-air machine, President Coolidge called an International Civil Aeronautics Conference in Washington, D. C., on Dec. 12, 13, 14, 1928. Delegates from forty countries attended. To commemorate this first I.C.A. Conference two special stamps were issued on Dec. 12, 1928 (see also Fig. 129). This postage stamp pictures the first Wright biplane in flight. Notice how the propeller is in the rear and how the pilot had to lie prone upon the wing. On the right side of the stamp the dome of the Capitol and on the left the shaft of the Washington monument may be seen.

of Panama \$10,000,000 in cash and \$250,000 a year beginning in 1913. We next purchased the unfinished French Panama Canal, which had been a colossal failure, for \$40,000,000, and American engineers began the work.

The sanitary renovation of the Zone was among the earliest of the American tasks. That the canal was completed at all was due to the success of the medical men who succeeded in overcoming the causes of the yellow fever and malaria which for centuries had made the isthmus unlivable for the white man.

In 1907, George W. Goethals, a major in the regular army, was made chief engineer of the canal building, and under his excellent leadership the enterprise moved forward rapidly toward completion.

At the canal site the isthmus is 49 miles wide. Near the center is the water divide, an elevation 8 miles wide and 290 feet above the sea at Culebra, its highest point.

East of this ridge is a plain, 30 miles wide, cut by the Chagres River running out of the hills east of Culebra and going along the line of the canal to the sea. West and south of

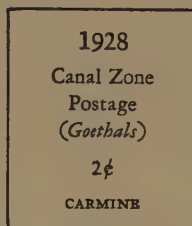


FIG. 115

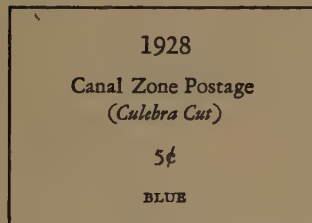


FIG. 116

FIG. 115. This postage stamp was issued in 1928 by the United States government for Canal Zone postage. It reproduces a portrait of Major-general George W. Goethals, the chief engineer of the Panama Canal. Major-general Goethals was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1858. He graduated from West Point in 1880, and served as an engineer officer for forty years, rendering many notable services. He was the first civil governor of the Canal Zone. FIG. 116. This postage stamp is of the same issue as the preceding one. It reproduces a photograph of the work being done on the cut at Culebra. In the foreground may be seen a steam shovel at work, while in the background trains are being loaded with the dirt which has been excavated. This great cut is almost eight miles long and three hundred feet wide. Landslides constantly menaced the lives of the workmen and its completion was considered to be a master piece of engineering.

the divide is a short river which crosses a plain 10 miles wide and flows into the Pacific. The canal builder's task was to follow one river to the divide, cut through the ridge at Culebra, and parallel the other river to the ocean. Great locks were constructed at the sea level of both rivers and they were thus converted into artificial lakes through which the ocean vessels could safely pass.

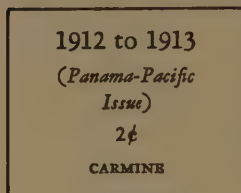


FIG. 117

On August 15, 1914, the Panama canal was formally opened to traffic. It had taken almost ten years to build and had cost more than \$361,000,000, but it made possible the carrying of more trade by avoiding the long voyage around South America, and the defense

of our coastline by the passing of our vessels of war from one side of America to the other.

During the last year of President Roosevelt's second administration (1907 to 1908) he sent a fleet of twenty of our battleships on a trip of good will around the world. The total distance covered is estimated at about 40,000 miles. Never before in the history of the world had so large a fleet undertaken so long a voyage. Their presence in foreign ports did more than anything else could have done to convince the world of the power and progress of the United States. Their trip was national advertising on a grand scale.

In the election of 1908, William Howard Taft became the twenty-eighth President of the United States. President

FIG. 117. This postage stamp was issued in 1912 at the time of the Panama-Pacific Exposition which was held at San Francisco to celebrate the connecting of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans by the Panama Canal. The stamp presents a poor engraving of one of the canal locks in which the vessels are raised and lowered to different water levels. There are three series of such locks throughout the course of the canal. On the Atlantic side is the Gatun lock which has a joint lift of eighty-five feet above the level of the sea. On the Pacific side of the canal are the Pedro Miguel locks and the Miraflores locks. The vessels are towed into and out of these locks by electric engines.

Taft had been the first civil governor of the Philippine Islands, and in 1906 was the military governor of Cuba. As President (1909 to 1913), Mr. Taft continued to follow out the policies inaugurated by President Roosevelt. Forest reserves were established for the conservation of timber in the Rocky, Appalachian, and White mountains; large appropriations of money were set aside for the purposes of reclaiming the country's waste lands and deepening her harbors and navigable rivers. The government had successfully maintained its right to supervise the business of the country when it effected the welfare of the people and now it established a department of labor to further the rights and privileges of the workingman. The federal government had become concerned with the individual welfare of its citizens.

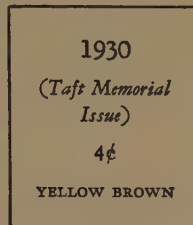


FIG. 118

6

In 1913, Woodrow Wilson became the President of the United States. President Wilson was born at Staunton, Virginia, in 1856. After graduating from Princeton University, he studied law and practiced this profession for a brief period at Atlanta, Georgia. The practice of law, however, was not to his liking, and, in 1883, he entered Johns Hopkins University for the study of history. In 1890, he was called to a professorship in political science at Princeton, and in 1902 he became the President of the university.

FIG. 118. This postage stamp was issued on June 4, 1930, in honor of the late Ex-President William Howard Taft. Its design is the same as the regular issue of 1922 to 1926 and it replaced the four-cent, Martha Washington stamp of that issue (see Fig. 42, p. 69). President Taft was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1857, and died in Washington, D. C. in 1930. He was appointed Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1921, which position he held until shortly before his death.

In 1910, Woodrow Wilson was elected governor of New Jersey as the candidate of the Democratic party. He at

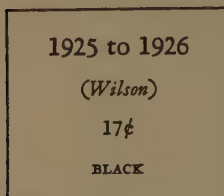


FIG. 119

once began a program of reform and soon earned the reputation of being the most independent and progressive governor in the East. Aided by his gift for oratory, he fast became a figure of national importance, and, in 1912, a split in the Republican Party made him the first Democratic President since Grover Cleveland (see p. 127).

During the opening years of the twentieth century, Europe had become an armed camp. Every nation was expecting and preparing for war. In June of 1914 the awaited event happened—Austria and Germany declared war upon France. One after another the European nations were drawn into the gigantic conflict and soon Asiatic nations were sending troops to the European battlefields.

President Wilson hastened to proclaim the neutrality of the United States. Throughout the years, 1914 and 1915, this neutrality was carefully preserved. The climax came, however, when the great British liner, *Lusitania*, was torpedoed by a German submarine on May 7, 1915. The huge vessel sank within twenty minutes, carrying with her to their death more than a hundred American citizens. Three notes to Germany failed to bring any satisfactory promises for the safety of American vessels upon the seas. German plots within our own country began to be unveiled. The people began to clamor for war with Germany, and

FIG. 119. This postage stamp was issued in memorial of President Wilson who died at Washington on Feb. 3, 1924. President Coolidge wrote of him: "As President of the United States he was moved by an earnest desire to promote the best interests of the country as he conceived them. His acts were prompted by high motives and his sincerity of purpose cannot be questioned. He led the nation through the terrific struggle of the World War with a lofty idealism which never failed him. He gave utterance to the aspirations of humanity with an eloquence which held the attention of all the earth, and made America a new and enlarged influence in the destiny of mankind."

the nation began to prepare for the coming struggle. On April 6, 1917, a resolution was adopted by Congress, declaring a state of war with Germany and empowering the President to carry on war with all the resources of the nation. For the first time in more than a hundred years the United States was at war with a first-line power.

Almost overnight the government of the nation began the moulding of a great military machine. A Council for National Defense was created, consisting of fifteen members representing the governmental and the industrial world. The industries of the country were divided into more than seventy groups and attempts were made to control them. The railroad and steamship lines passed under government control, and thirty-two military camps were established in different parts of the country for the intensive training of American soldiers. To finance the war taxes were increased enormously, and the government borrowed money from its citizens by issuing series of "Liberty" bonds.

Within the first few months of our participation over a half million men volunteered for service. But now a new principle was introduced in the raising of an army. On June 5, 1917, all men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty were compelled to register for military service. Over 9,000,000 men were included in this class and of these about 1,300,000 were selected for service and sent to camp for training. Further registrations and eliminations followed.

Meanwhile, modern warfare with its machine guns, poison gas, aerial bombs, tanks, and submarines was ravaging the countries of Belgium and France. Large convoys of vessels carrying soldiers, ammunition, food supplies—and also nurses, bandages, and surgical instruments—were hurried across the Atlantic to aid the European Allies. General Pershing had promised, in behalf of

the War Department, to place 3,000,000 American soldiers in France by the spring of 1919, and by November, 1918, almost 2,000,000 of our young men were in the foreign field and had participated in the vicious struggle.

For four years the embittered nations of the world had sent forth their young men to destroy and to be destroyed upon the battlefield. Great cities lay in ruins, and the very monuments of civilization—the cathedrals, museums, and libraries—had been desecrated and wasted by fire. Was it to be wondered at that the war-tired nations of Europe welcomed the advent of fresh American troops? Germany had failed to stop our coming with her submarines, and now our vigor brought confidence and new hope to the Allies.

On November 11, 1918, an armistice was declared between the warring powers, and plans were made for peace. The last gun of the war had been fired; almost 7,000,000 men had been killed in battle, and a war debt had accumulated, so great that its payments will still have to be met by the grandchildren of the soldiers who fought the battles.

The United States was independent in the World War and was allied with no foreign power. We asked for no territorial gain and had entered the fray with the ostensible purpose of "making the world safe for Democracy." We did not, therefore, go to the Peace Conference at Versailles with any claim upon the powers of Europe. President Wilson and the United States were interested only in the

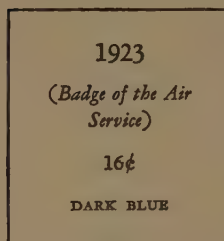


FIG. 120

FIG. 120. This stamp was issued on Aug. 17, 1923, to be used for air-mail postage. It reproduces the official badge of the United States Air Service. During the World War, President Wilson created a new Bureau of Aircraft Production, thus removing that branch of the service from the direction of the United States Signal Corps. John D. Ryan became the first civilian chief.

kind of peace which should emerge from the settlement of the war. He was determined that it should be a "peace without victory" and therefore a lasting peace. He did insist that there should be a Covenant of a League of Nations inserted in the Treaty of Paris which would be the foundation stone of the whole treaty.

Between April and May 7, 1919, the treaty was formed. The European powers divided the spoils of war between themselves and a League of Nations was created whose headquarters was to be located at Geneva, in Switzerland. This League of Nations, President Wilson's conception, was to be the arbitrator of national difficulties and the final court of appeal before resorting to another war between the nations.

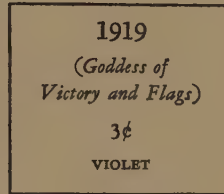


FIG. 121

When the treaty of peace was brought before the United States Congress for ratification it was rejected and a separate peace was made with Germany. The League of Nations was adopted by the foreign powers and has become a great factor toward the adjustment of international difficulties and the establishment of world peace.

During President Wilson's second administration (1917 to 1921) two important amendments to the Constitution of the United States were passed by Congress and ratified by the states. The Eighteenth Amendment (1919) forbade the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within the territory of the United States, and the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) gave the power of the ballot to the women citizens of the nation.

FIG. 121. On Mar. 3, 1919, the United States government issued the "Victory" postage stamp to celebrate the close of the World War. In the picture upon this stamp the United States flag is shown for the first time accompanied by foreign flags. The flags of the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, and Belgium are grouped behind the allegorical figure of the Goddess of Victory who holds her sword in one hand and the scales of justice in the other.

In 1921, the Republican Party returned to power with the election of Senator Warren G. Harding of Ohio. President Harding's brief administration (1921 to 1923)

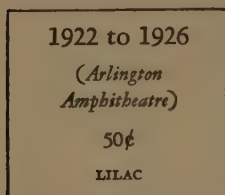


FIG. 122

was one of readjustment from war conditions to normal times, and the road was a long and difficult one. Foreign debts, soldiers' pensions, farm relief, industrial and social conflicts, had to be carefully considered and adjusted.

In his inaugural address, President Harding, while rejecting membership in the League of Nations, had declared that the United States was ready to "associate with the nations of the world, great and small, for conference and counsel, for the suggestion of plans of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration." On November 12, 1921, at his bidding there assembled in Washington delegates from eight European and Asiatic powers to discuss the question of putting an end to competition in naval armaments. As a result of this meeting, another important step was taken by the nations concerned toward the promotion of world peace. A "naval holiday" of ten years in the construction of battleships was declared. The United States gave up her building program which would have made us the strongest naval

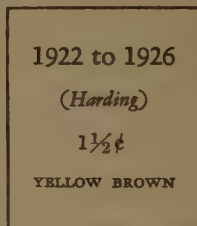


FIG. 123

FIG. 122. This postage stamp was issued on Nov. 11, 1922, to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the armistice which ended the World War. It pictures the amphitheatre located at Arlington, the national cemetery situated a short distance from Washington. This cemetery is consecrated to the memory of the nation's soldier dead. In the foreground may be seen the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

FIG. 123. This postage stamp was issued on Mar. 19, 1925. Warren Gamaliel Harding was born at Corsica, Ohio, on Nov. 2, 1865. He was a journalist and newspaper proprietor at Marion, Ohio, and president of the Harding Publishing Company, publishers of the Marion "Star." In 1900, he became a member of the Ohio Senate and, in 1904, was elected Lieutenant-governor of his state. In 1915, he was elected to the United States Senate, where he served until his election to the presidency in 1920.

power in the world, and Great Britain abandoned her policy of maintaining a navy equal to the combined fleet of her two strongest possible rivals. Japan also agreed to restrict the building of battleships.

In August of 1923, trans-continental air mail service connecting New York and San Francisco was inaugurated by the government.

Great airports were built in the many commercial cities along the route, and beacon lights were placed by the government to guide the airplane pilot on his flight from coast to coast. At the opening of this service, in 1923, it cost twenty-four cents to send a letter across the

continent by air. By 1929, the service was so well established and patronized that the rate was reduced to five cents for a similar letter. The air-mail service by this time had been extended to most of the important cities of the nation and plans were being made for regular air-mail service to the West Indies,

and to Central and South American ports.

In June of 1923, President Harding, with a large party, set out on a tour through the West and to Alaska. The President's health had not been good when he left Washington, and when returning from Alaska he was taken ill.

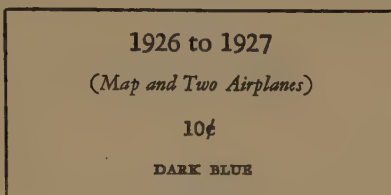


FIG. 124

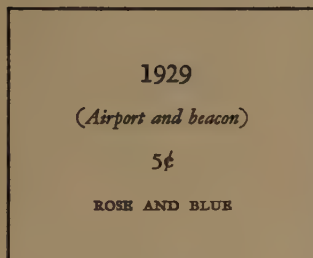


FIG. 125

FIG. 124. This interesting stamp was issued for air-mail postage in 1906. It reproduces a map of the United States over which two mail airplanes are flying.

FIG. 125. In 1929, the air-mail postage was reduced to five cents for the first ounce, and this postage stamp was issued for the service. It reproduces a photograph of the landing field and air beacon which is located at the highest point of the Rocky Mountains crossed by the air-mail route. A mail plane is to be seen arriving at the airport. These beacon lights can be seen by the pilot for almost two hundred miles on a clear night.

He died on August 2 at Seattle, Washington, and was succeeded by the Vice-president, Calvin Coolidge, a native of Vermont.

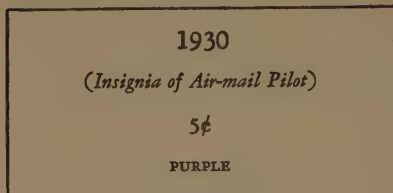


FIG. 126

President Coolidge pledged himself to carry on the policies of his predecessor and undertook a program of economy in governmental expenditures. His

earnestness and efficiency appealed to the American people, and in the election of 1924 he was re-elected for another term of four years.

Two events took place during President Coolidge's second administration (1925 to 1929) which seized the imagination of the American people.

Back in 1919, Raymond Orteig, a French editor, had offered a prize of \$25,000 to the person making the first continuous flight in an airplane from New York to Paris. In 1927, Charles A. Lindbergh, an army-trained, air-mail pilot, decided to attempt the feat. Early in the morning of May 20, a silvered monoplane, the *Spirit of St. Louis*, rose above the ground at Roosevelt Field, Long Island, and pointed its nose toward the northeast. It was "Lindy" headed for Paris, and he traveled *alone*. All that day he followed the coast northward, and when evening came

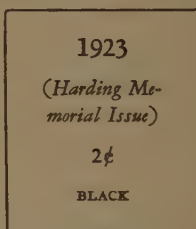


FIG. 127

FIG. 126. This air-mail stamp was issued on Feb. 10, 1930, to replace the air-mail issue of 1929 (see Fig. 125). The central design reproduces the insignia of the air-mail pilot, a globe with extended wings on either side with a background of rays of light. On the globe are the words "U. S. Air Mail."

FIG. 127. This postage stamp was issued on Sept. 1, 1923, in memorial of the death of President Harding, who died during a tour of Alaska, a martyr to the strain of his official duties, Aug. 2, 1923. The portrait reproduced on this stamp is the same as the one which appears on the stamp of Fig. 123. On this stamp the dates of President Harding's birth (1865) and death (1923) appear in the upper corners.

he had headed toward the open sea off the coast of Newfoundland. All that night, through fog and rain, the courageous young pilot sped his craft across the tossing ocean. With the morning came the sun, and through the openings in the clouds beneath he could see the sparkling water. All that long day he sped toward the East. The green hills of Ireland came into view. He flew low over England and flashed across the English Channel toward the white cliffs which were France. Darkness once more came on, but now his plane was roaring close to its goal. Beacon lights began to gleam—the Eiffel Tower aglow with light suddenly stood out before him. He circled Paris once, then saw Le Bourget Flying Field. The famous trip was done. Within the last thirty-three and one-half hours he had flown 3,610 miles—from the New World to the Old. Charles A. Lindbergh now became not only the ideal and hero of American youth but he also stands before the whole world as a personification of the courage and valor of young America.

The second great event of President Coolidge's second administration was the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Treaty (1927), often called the Pact of Paris, whose purpose was to outlaw war amongst civilized nations. By this treaty, which was open to all nations of the world, France and the United States agreed to condemn war as a solution of international controversies, and to submit

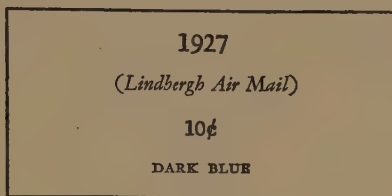


FIG. 128

FIG. 128. Colonel Lindbergh's daring accomplishment was at once commemorated by the issuing of a special air-mail stamp in 1927. This stamp pictures the *Spirit of St. Louis* in flight and shows the route he followed from New York to Paris. This is the first time in the history of our country that a man has received postage stamp honor during his life time.

their disagreements to an international board for arbitration. World peace, the hope and dream of mankind throughout the ages, comes ever nearer to realization.

In December of the last year of President Coolidge's administration, the first International Civil Aeronautics Conference met in Washington to discuss and plan for the future of civil aviation. Delegates from forty countries came to these meetings and a great "international brotherhood of the air" was formed. This first International

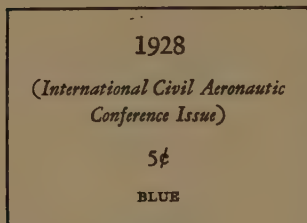


FIG. 129

Civil Aeronautic Conference commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of Wilbur Wright's first flight in a heavier-than-air machine (see p. 140). The developments of flying during the ensuing years have been truly remarkable. Our country, as well as every other nation,

is fast taking to the air and wonderful new developments will mark the progress of flying during the next few generations. We have become a *mechanical-minded* nation and we no longer laugh at or ridicule the man who suggests the seemingly impossible, as people once laughed at the ideas of Robert Fulton, John Stevens, and Alexander Graham Bell (see pp. 76, 88, 122, *respectively*).

The election of 1928 brought a new type of national executive to the presidency in the person of Herbert Hoover. President Hoover had been an outstanding authority as a mining engineer and, in 1914, when the German army overran Belgium, he won international

FIG. 129. On Dec. 12, 1928, this postage stamp and the stamp of Fig. 114 were issued to commemorate the first I.C.A. Conference and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first flight by man in a power-driven, heavier-than-air machine. This stamp pictures a 1928 model monoplane in flight before a whirling globe. On the right-hand side of the stamp is to be seen the dome of the Capitol and on the left is the shaft of the Washington monument.

fame as the head of the Commission for the Relief of Belgium. When the United States entered the World War, Herbert Hoover was called by President Wilson to become the federal food administrator for the nation. Under Presidents Harding and Coolidge he served as Secretary of Commerce, and when he became the thirty-first President of the United States in 1929, he was an administrator of international as well as national reputation.

President Hoover has begun his administration with the thoroughness of an engineer and the efficiency of a business man. Various commissions have been set to work to investigate and report upon the social, economic, and commercial life of the nation. Many plans are in progress for the improvement of inland waterways and the scientific development of the nation's resources.

On October 19, 1929, the canalization of the Ohio River was completed. Since pioneers first began to enter the West the Ohio River had been a means of travel into the heart of the continent, but in its original condition the river was obstructed throughout its entire length by snags, rocks, gravel, and sand bars. Since 1875, the Ohio River has been gradually improved for ship navigation, and, in 1910, Congress adopted a project which provided for the construction of fifty-four locks and dams to assure a year-round, nine-foot depth throughout the thousand miles between the cities of Pittsburgh, at its source, and Cairo, where it empties into the Mississippi. This stupendous piece of work has now been completed and opened to traffic.

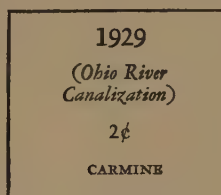


FIG. 130

FIG. 130. This postage stamp was issued on Oct. 19, 1929, to commemorate the celebration of the opening of the completed Ohio River canal. It pictures one of the fifty-four locks which make the river navigable from Pittsburgh to Cairo. A steamboat may be seen entering the upper level of the lock. On the scroll above the picture appear the dates of the canal's conception (1875) and completion (1929).

During the opening months of 1930, the eyes of all Americans were fixed upon the history-making Disarmament Conference which met in London and advanced the peace of the world by signing the London Treaty of April 22. This treaty limited for the first time in history all important weapons of naval warfare of the three greatest sea powers, the United States, Great Britain, and Japan, and bound the navies of France and Italy in a considerable measure of restriction. Thus five of the great world powers have agreed to respect each other in peace. Battleships will no longer be built and their number will be reduced. The building of auxiliary crafts of warfare are limited. The conference has proved how the menace of arms can be removed by treaties regulating their development.

Thus we have briefly reviewed the story of our country's growth, strivings, and achievements, as pictured upon the postage-stamp issues of our government. From a few unstable and remote settlements along the Atlantic Coast we have grown to be one of the great nations of the world. Our national struggle has been brief but intense in its development. We have emerged from it as one nation, unified in heart and soul. Our affairs with the other nations of the world have been honorable and we are looked upon with respect as the first and most successful democratic Republic. Our nation is still strong with the vigor of youth. May we continue so to use our strength as further to perpetuate the ideals which have been our inheritance.

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